

Staff Report

REQUEST FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IN LIBRARY

April 8, 2014

BACKGROUND

The City Council has chosen to restrict the lawful consumption of alcohol in City facilities. This has primarily been due to Council's responsiveness to input from community groups concerned over the message conveyed to the public – and particularly to youth – with the City allowing the consumption of alcohol in public facilities (such as City Hall). Liability issues and regulation of consumption by minors may have also been concerns.

At present, some forms of alcohol may be consumed in designated City parks and at Homewood Golf Course. State law also authorizes Council to allow consumption of alcohol on City streets in conjunction with special events (e.g., Midnight Madness, Main Street Cultural District and Campustown Action Association events) through an application and permit process. It is important to note that the authority to approve all liquor license requests within the City of Ames lies with the City Council.

The Library Board of Trustees recently approved a request by the Friends Foundation to serve beer and wine at a fundraising gala to be held on September 5, 2014. The Library has previously never considered serving of alcohol inside its facility. Therefore, the City Council has never had a request to allow for a liquor license on the Library premises. The Library Board has the authority to approve consumption on the Library premises, but do not have the authority to approve the liquor license.

Because this is a unique request from the Library Board of Trustees, the Board is seeking City Council support in advance of a request for a liquor license. If the City Council determines that it is not interested in supporting alcohol consumption in this City facility or in supporting approval of the liquor license, the Friends Foundation will need to reconsider this fundraising event and its other options for fundraising.

A letter is attached from Kevin Stow, President of the Library Board. In the letter he states that, should beer and wine be served, the event will be open only to those aged 21 and older.



April 4, 2014

The Honorable Mayor Campbell and City Council Members
City Hall
Ames

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

The Ames Public Library Board was approached by the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation (APLFF) with a request to hold an event at the site of the renewed library prior to the grand opening on September 14th. They would like to host a gala on the evening of September 5th. The event would serve as a celebration of the new building, a fundraiser for APLFF projects, and a donor cultivation opportunity. It would also serve as a sneak peak for those who have supported the project and wish to attend. They anticipate a celebratory, fun and active party staffed by volunteers. They also sought approval to serve alcohol at the twenty-one-and-over event.

At its March 20th meeting the APL Board of Trustees passed a resolution granting "permission for the APLFF to host a gala event on library premises on September 5, 2014." The APL Board also passed a resolution granting permission for the consumption of beer and wine on library premises "during a pre-opening gala on September 5, 2014, provided the APLFF makes the necessary arrangements to obtain a temporary liquor license or engage a licensed caterer."

We wanted to inform you that this issue will be coming before the City Council as a temporary liquor license request from either APLFF or a caterer they have hired. The Gala Committee needs to move forward with planning and would like to send out "save the date" cards within the new few weeks. Since there are many planning details to work out we would like to know if Council members have any questions or concerns at this time so that we can address them. I would be happy to come before the Council to discuss this issue if you would like.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin C. Stow".

Kevin Stow, President
Ames Public Library Board of Trustees