

City seeking business loan subsidies

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

One of two Class C liquor-by-the-glass licenses that Farmington Hills officials have held in reserve for two major office developments has been extended for another two years.

At the request of the developers — Peter Burton, Ron Hughes and Robert Katzman of the Arboretum Office Park — the Farmington Hills City Council agreed to hold the liquor license in reserve until March 1988.

The license was first held in reserve for the developers in March 1984 in anticipation that a restaurant would be in operation in the office park within two years — by March 1986, said City Clerk Joan Reynolds. Council at that time agreed that if the license was not in use by a restaurant in the office park by March 12, 1986, the license would be reconsidered.

"We have been, as you can tell, forging ahead on our Arboretum," said developer Burton. "We have been unable to get a signature on the dotted line for a restaurant. We are still as much as ever in need of a restaurant at the facility."

Phased construction on the planned six three-story buildings on 30 acres along 12 Mile, between Drake and Farmington roads, began in fall 1984. The first building has been completed and is occupied. A permit has been issued and footings installed for phase two. The proposed restaurant, however, is supposed to be connected by walkways to phases one and three, Burton said.

"IT'S NOT essential for (phase) three to be built before the restaurant goes in," Burton said.

But developers have had difficulty in attracting a restaurant to the still incomplete park because currently the only trade available is from the occu-

pled offices. It's possible that a deal could be reached with a restaurateur before the completion of phase two, Burton said.

Despite council's decision to grant an extension on the license, council questioned Burton and the project's progress in light of the fact that the city also has a second license in reserve for the planned Brookfield office center on the Northwestern Highway at 13 Mile.

Because construction has not yet been completed on Brookfield, city officials expect the proposed project's developers, Etkin Equities, to follow

Burton's suit and request a license extension.

"As you well know, liquor licenses are probably more valuable than diamonds in this community," said Councilwoman Judy Seronen, after asking Burton how long an extension was needed to accommodate development of a restaurant.

FARMINGTON HILLS' quota (based on population) for Class C liquor licenses is 39. With the two in reserve for Brookfield and Arboretum, the city is at its limit, Reynolds said.

"We cannot ignore the fact that this complex (Arboretum) and Brookfield, which is Etkin's, are very large developments in the city. Things are not as bad in getting liquor licenses as they used to be. Now everybody gets a resort license," said Mayor Joe Alkateeb. Responding to questions on how long the city should reserve the license, Burton told council that even if developers had a commitment from a restaurateur, it would be another 10-12 months before construction was complete. It would be "reasonable to expect" a commitment from a restaurateur within

18 months, he added.

"As you know, this Arboretum, in many ways, has been an uphill fight," Burton said, referring to the earlier economic slump in Michigan and a glut of (office) property in the area.

But Burton assured council that the first Arboretum building "is filling up at a reasonable pace. I am not burning up any sales records there."

WHEN QUESTIONED whether the possibility that the planned 12 Mile Road widening might not occur would have an effect on the Arboretum's fu-

ture, Burton brushed the concern aside. He added that there is a possibility that a portion — at least from the Arboretum property to Farmington Road — of the thoroughfare might be widened with private money (as opposed to tax revenues).

"I would say there is a good chance the road could be widened on private (money)," Burton said.

When council questioned Burton about his comments, he added that he couldn't fully discuss the issue and that he wasn't saying Arboretum developers would complete the widening.

Country Day names headmaster

Detroit Country Day's assistant headmaster will become the fourth headmaster of the 72-year-old private school.

Gerald Hansen was elected DCD headmaster effective July 1, 1986, by the Board of Trustees, chairman Anthony C. Buesser said.

Hansen has been associated with the school for 20 years as teacher, department chairman and director of studies. The school has campuses in Beverly Hills and Bloomfield Township.

"After conducting an intensive national search, the Board of Trustees overwhelmingly decided that the best candidate for headmaster of Detroit Country Day School is our own Jerry Hansen," Buesser said.

He will assume his new leadership duties upon the retirement of Richard

A. Schlegel, who has headed the school for the past 20 years.

HANSEN has a bachelor of arts degree from Northern Michigan University, a master of arts in mathematics from Rutgers University, and has done additional work in mathematics and computer science

at Florida State University and Michigan State University. Prior to his duties at Detroit Country Day School, he taught mathematics at Holly (Mich.) High School and was

elected to the Holly Area School Board, of which he was treasurer 1968-73 and president 1973-76.

In the teacher/coach tradition of Country Day, Hansen guided his junior varsity football teams to 46 wins and six losses; as varsity golf coach from 1975 to the present, he has produced four state championship teams.

The board used an executive search consultant to assist in assessing the needs of the school and screening candidates from across the country.

Seven candidates were selected from among 80 applicants and were brought to the campus for three-day interviews conducted by the Board of Trustees Search Committee and groups representing Country Day Lower, Middle and Upper School parents, faculty, students, ad-

ministrators and alumni.

THE THREE most highly qualified candidates and their wives were asked to return for two-day interviews.

Hansen and his wife, Betty, have three children, all graduates of Detroit Country Day School: Jan, a University of Michigan graduate, is a Wall Street trader with Thompson-McKinnon in New York; Jay, a graduate of University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, is an analyst with Michigan National Bank; and Jean, a junior at the University of Michigan, is majoring in English.

Mrs. Hansen, an English teacher at Holly High School, is working on a master's degree from the University of Michigan. Hansen grew up in Escanaba and has lived in Holly since 1959.



Gerald Hansen



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