

Village of Niles

TASK FORCE FOR TESTIMONY ON VIDEO GAMING

MINUTES

February 27, 2014 – 8:00 a.m.

Persons in attendance: Jim Callero – Chair
Bruce Hertz, M.D.
Cooky Kraus
Scot Neukirch – Director of Finance
Dean Strzelecki – Police Chief
Cathy Spadoni – Secretary

I. Call to Order

Mr. Callero called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

A court reporter from County Court Reporters took testimony.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Kraus made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hertz, to approve the minutes of the January 6, January 8 and February 6, 2014 meetings. On voice vote, all concurred.

III. Task Force Discussion of Conditions to the Recommendation to the Village of Niles Board of Trustees Regarding Video Gaming in Niles

Mr. Callero stated that after three sessions of hearing testimony both for and against video gaming, the three voting members of this Task Force are unanimously recommending the following:

Approval of video gaming within the Village of Niles with these additional conditions added to the State of Illinois regulations:

- 1) *That an aggressive fee structure for licensing be established – a minimum of \$500.00 per machine.*
- 2) *That gaming establishments be located no closer than 250 feet from one another.*
- 3) *That each gaming machine be under video surveillance wired directly to the Niles Police Station. All surveillance equipment costs are to be paid by the establishment. Morton Grove has volunteered to let us see how their system is set up.*

- 4) *Each establishment must have had a liquor license for 18 months prior to making an application for a video gaming license. This liquor license must be in good standing with no outstanding violations.*
- 5) *If the establishment's gross liquor sales do not exceed 60% or more of total sales, the gaming machines must be located in a separate room within view of management at all times. If the 60% rule is met, the video games can be located within the general bar area as long as no one under 21 years of age is admitted into the establishment.*
- 6) *The establishment must have a 4:00 a.m., full-pouring liquor license.*

Mayor Andrew Przybylo stated, for the record, that the White Eagle has no intention of having video gaming. His objective here, as mayor, is to acknowledge that video gaming is both entertainment and a vice, and to see if there is a way to bring video gaming online and make it work for the Village in terms of revenue. He suggested the following additional conditions:

That facial recognition software be used with video surveillance software to alert the owner of the establishment to a player on the "do not gamble" list.

The Task Force agreed to this condition 3-0. Chief Strzelecki noted that the police issue tickets to offenders. He suggested that this be included in the fine structure of the ordinance.

That a newly-converted liquor establishment owned by an established, five-year business owner-of-record in good standing be allowed to apply for a video gaming license and that a maximum of 25 establishments be allowed to participate in video gaming: 23 current liquor establishments and 2 newly-converted liquor establishments.

The Task Force agreed to this condition 3-0. Details of how licenses will be given out (first come/first serve, by lottery, etc.), the transfer of gaming licenses from a retiring owner to a new owner, etc. will be determined later. Mr. Neukirch noted that the estimate of anticipated revenue from video gaming that he previously presented will be lower if the number of video gaming licenses is kept to a maximum of 25.

That sounds coming from and/or surrounding the gaming machines be kept to a minimum level.

That the gaming machines be set-up, if possible, to automatically shut off for five minutes after 20-30 minutes of continuous play.

The Task Force voted as follows: Mr. Callero – no; Dr. Hertz – yes; Ms. Kraus – yes.

That participating establishments be restricted to using only signage designed and provided by the Village of Niles.

The Task Force agreed to this condition 3-0.

Mr. Callero made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hertz, that these additional conditions will be incorporated into the original letter of recommendation that will be presented to the Mayor and Trustees. On voice vote, all concurred.

Mayor Przybylo will conduct a resident survey regarding video gaming that will provide additional information to the Board.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

2013-2014 Task Force for Testimony on Video Gaming

Voting Members	Village Staff Members
James Callero – Chair	Village Manager Steven C. Vinezano
Bruce M. Hertz, M.D.	Police Chief Dean Strzelecki
Cooky Kraus	Finance Director Scot Neukirch
	Secretary Cathy Spadoni