

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/news/2011/jun/15/STNEWSO8-home-brew-retailers-relocation-clears-fir-ar-237061/>



Published: June 15, 2011

[Home](#) / [news](#) /

Home-brew retailer's relocation clears first hurdle

By Kathy Steele



Tampa City Council gave initial approval to a home-brew retail store that would also have a beer garden, bocce courts and shuffleboard.

Southern Brewing & Winemaking would open in a former boat showroom at 4500 Nebraska Ave., across from the Mega SuperMarket. Owners Brian and Kelly Fenstermacher plan to relocate their business from Busch Boulevard to the Southeast Seminole Heights location.

Their business currently operates only as a retail store where customers buy supplies to make beer and wine at home and also take home-brewing classes on-site.

A final vote to approve beer and wine sales and the rezoning of a parking lot site is scheduled June 23.

About a dozen people spoke for and against the proposal last week at a public hearing.

Some residents living on or near Emma Street, which will provide access into the business, were not happy about the alcohol sales, which initially included liquor as well as beer and wine. They also worried about more traffic next to their homes.

Resident Yvette Pinero said neighbors had worked with Tampa police to curtail prostitution and illegal drugs along Nebraska. "My concern is that this type of business on a corner of Nebraska, so close to residential property, is going to damage the neighborhood again," she said. "The traffic also I think is going to be very disturbing."

Kelly Fenstermacher said she understood residents' concerns.

"The intent is not to promote anything like that," she said. At least 50 percent of the business would be retail sales, she said.

The proposal includes a fence and landscaping to buffer the store from residences. On Thursday-Saturday the business would be open until 1 a.m. but other nights would close at 11 p.m. The owners anticipate the business would become a neighborhood gathering place with some people walking or riding their bicycles.

Live music would be acoustic, not amplified. Ten tables would be on an outside patio with total occupancy inside and outside set at 280 people.

Southern Brewing employee Brian Wing said the business caters to a special clientele. "These are people interested in the art of home brewing," he said. "You attract customers with a mature outlook on alcohol."

But some raised questions about why the business needed to sell liquor, beer and wine.

Attorney Mark Bentley said the alcohol content of the hops sold for making beer required the license include liquor sales. The Fenstermachers also said not everyone likes beer and would want the option of liquor.

But in the end, they agreed to drop the request to sell liquor on site or as package sales for take-home.