

April 30, 2013

My name is Kara McGuire and my family of five (kids ages 9, 7, and 4) has lived in the Midway neighborhood for a dozen years. We love the area, but have long lamented not having a small, locally-owned family restaurant where we could meet with friends over a glass of beer or wine. We've watched the tenants on the corner of Thomas and Hamline over the years and can say that the owners of Groundswell are so neighborhood-minded and have brought such an energy to that corner.

I encourage you to take a look at the Hamline Midway Neighbors Facebook group to see how many people are excited about the expansion and think a restaurant in that space is long overdue.

I'm taking the time to write this to share my overwhelming support for granting Groundswell a beer and wine license. I can't see anything but benefits for our neighborhood. It helps that the owners and many employees live right here and care about the quality of life in the neighborhood as much as I do. They've worked so hard to improve the look of the building inside and out.

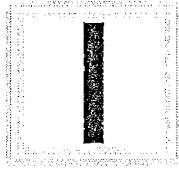
I, for one, would like to stop having to drive south of I-94 for a beer at the Nook, the Blue Door, Groveland Tap, Cheeky Monkey Deli, or any number of small establishments with beer and wine licenses that are so successful in other tight-knit St. Paul neighborhoods. Give the Midway a chance to have one of our own.

I am happy to talk further about my support if needed.

Sincerely,



Kara McGuire
1286 Lafond Ave.
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kfiegs@yahoo.com



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May 2, 2013

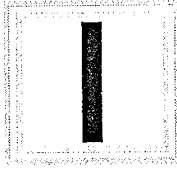
To Whom It May Concern:

It is my most sincere honor to present a letter of support for Groundswell Coffee at 1342 Thomas Avenue. I am a proud resident of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood, living only 4 blocks north of Groundswell Coffee. And I'm the proud business owner that is immediately adjacent to the café. It is, beyond a doubt, the neighbors and surrounding businesses wish that Groundswell Coffee be granted their beer and wine license.

Groundswell Coffee has quickly become a neighborhood destination, a meeting spot within our community. The owners have put much thought into their intelligent planning and deliberate use of the space. From early morning cups of coffee, to evening poetry readings, it is exactly what the Hamline-Midway neighborhood has been craving for years. The Hamline-Midway neighborhood is a vibrant area made up of students, young families, and the elderly, and all of these people come together at Groundswell Coffee.

Since their expansion, Groundswell Coffee has become even more of a bustling business. It's not uncommon to see groups of individuals from business and community leaders, including City Council Members, students, parents with their young children and folks utilizing Hamline Avenue as a thoroughfare to Ayd Mill Road stopping in for a fabulous cup of coffee or a meeting. Groundswell Coffee will be the primary destination north of University Avenue to Roseville between Dale Avenue and Snelling Avenue to fill this niche.

As a business owner, I know the importance of supporting my fellow business owners. I also know the importance of the presence of a great meeting and dining destination within close proximity to my business. And I also know the importance of being able to share a glass of wine with my clients. I choose to do business in the Midway. I choose to keep my business in Saint Paul. Saint Paul has supported my business from its inception and I am committed to growing and remaining in Saint Paul. I choose the Hamline-Midway and the intersection at Hamline and Thomas Avenues because of neighborhood support, great destinations like Groundswell Coffee, and the proximity of the light rail line.



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As a neighbor, I know the importance of having destinations for the community to convene in; this is why I choose to live in an urban center. I choose to raise my son in Saint Paul and I choose to educate him in the public school system. And I know the importance of sharing a cold beer with my neighbors. Saint Paul must continue to provide venues for its citizens to gather in. We must be able to get to know one another, eat together, drink a glass of wine together. It is through these events that we become a strong community and have the power to flourish.

With the coming light rail line only two blocks from our intersection, we are building a place for people to meet and join together. If Groundswell Coffee is not allowed their beer and wine license, the entire investment will have been fruitless. Groundswell Coffee will never be a late-night bar with thumping music and inebriated people stumbling through the streets and alleys. The patrons will be our very neighbors that we have come to know and love.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid B. Christensen, President/Owner
INGCO International, Inc.
Board Member, Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce
Member, Midway Chamber of Commerce

TO: Legislative office of the city of St. Paul

FROM: Dan & Lise Trudeau, residents and owners of 1277 Minnehaha Ave W

RE: Groundswell's application to serve beer and wine

We write to express our utmost support for Groundswell's application to serve beer and wine at its location at 1340 Thomas Ave.

We live just a few blocks away from Groundswell and have enjoyed experiencing the evolution of the coffee shop as it has brightened the intersection of Hamline and Thomas. Throughout all of the changes, it has always been a place for neighbors, families, and friends to gather and for acquaintances to meet. This is made possible by the conscientious ownership and the considerate employees they hire and take time to train. In our view, it has become an important and welcoming neighborhood institution in the Hamline Midway.

We look forward to a time in summer when we can walk to Groundswell with our two young girls and enjoy a beer with our dinner. Indeed, as Groundswell matures from a coffee shop to a true café, we believe that serving beer and wine will enhance its value for the neighborhood as a meeting place. Furthermore, we fully trust the owners to address promptly and carefully any problems that might arise with serving wine and beer.

This is part of our vision of a livable St. Paul; it is important to us to live in a place where we can walk to enjoy the comforts of life. For this reason, we support without reservation Groundswell's application to serve wine and beer.

Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Dan Trudeau (dctrudeau@gmail.com)

Lise Trudeau (lise-trudeau@yahoo.com)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I'm writing in support of Seth McCoy and his team at Groundswell. My husband and I and our neighbors are thrilled that Groundswell is expanding to include a larger menu of food and beverages. They have created a clean, friendly environment where we can bring our family for a snack, and eventually for lunch or dinner. While Midway has a great variety of ethnic restaurants, as well as a couple of good pizza places, we have been severely lacking a place like Groundswell. We need a place where we can have a nice glass of wine with a good meal, while our kids are able to have what they like, too. The offerings at Groundswell are already fantastic - good coffee (and my husband tends to be a coffee snob) and bakery options. I can only imagine that they'll carry their high standards through with the wine, beer, and expanded menu.

The plans present a great opportunity for Midway to gain a fun place for the neighbors to gather and chat, or just walk to for a nice lunch on a sunny day. Their support of the neighborhood is already evident: Local art hangs on the walls, and there are pastries from a neighborhood bakery in the case. The space is looking fabulous as well. I chose to become a founders' club member because of the commitment to community and quality menu that Groundswell is showing. I sincerely hope that the wine and beer license is approved, as I believe it will have a positive impact on our neighborhood.

Thank you,

Tricia Netland Wencel
Hamline Midway resident since 1998

Ellen Olsen
1222 Lafond Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

May 2, 2013

Dear Hearing Officer,

I am a Hamline-Midway resident and a neighbor of Groundswell Coffee. I am writing in support of Seth McCoy, Tim Gilbert and all their Groundswell partners. Their efforts to create a gathering place in our community are already flourishing. Their unique plan invited neighbors to join with them in a commitment to build a community space that values knowing one another and which supports artisanship, the arts, and partnering with local businesses. My wife and I, along with many of our neighbors, answered their invitation with resounding support. Please approve Groundswell's plan and their continuing efforts to create this vibrant gathering space and anchor in our neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,
Ellen Olsen

5/1/13

To Who It May Concern,

My name is Doug Byrnes and I am a Founding Member of Groundswell, the recently expanded neighborhood coffee café in the Hamline/Midway Area of St. Paul.

I coach the Women's Gymnastics Team at Hamline University and I've been working at Hamline as a gymnastics coach, there, since May of '89. I own two rental properties along Van Buren Ave (just north and a bit east of Groundswell) and I had previously lived in the area on and off for a period of about six years. I also own and operate Spirit Gymnastics, Inc., a gymnastics club for kids at Hamline.

So, I know the area pretty well. And I am very excited about the Groundswell's recent expansion and their plans (hopes) to include more food and drink options. I can't tell you how nice it will be to have a nearby neighborhood gathering place and it's my sincere hope that they are allowed to obtain a license to provide their patrons with wine and alcohol, in addition to the excellent coffee and tea selections they currently provide the community.

I love this area of St. Paul but I've always gone elsewhere to gather with friends and/or clients or to just chill out and think over a glass of wine or beer and a good meal. The thought of a local gathering spot, to me, is music to my ears. And I believe that I'm not alone in this hope for our neighborhood. Groundswell will provide the community with a great, nearby social option that will only grow the community spirit.

So yes, here's to the Legislature granting Groundswell the license to provide us Hamline/Midway folk with the option for wine and beer! Thanks for your consideration and the hopeful granting of the license.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Byrnes
Owner/Coach
Spirit Gymnastics, Inc
Head Coach Women's Gymnastics
Hamline University
651-206-7796 cell
651-523-2383 gym
dbyrnes@hamline.edu

I am writing to voice my support for granting a beer and wine license to Groundswell. My family and I live at 1331 Blair Avenue, two blocks away.

Expanding the Groundswell menu to include additional, higher-end food options, wine and beer will improve the quality of our neighborhood. Several of the best-respected neighborhoods in the Twin Cities, including Summit-University, Mac-Groveland and Merriam Park in St. Paul, feature casual restaurants of exactly the sort Groundswell wishes to become. These establishments are gathering places for individuals and families; they are ideal for the exchanging of ideas and the developing of new artistic partnerships. They give urban areas a vibrancy that makes them attractive to successful, educated buyers and renters, and creating such a space in the Midway will make nearby enterprises such as the Dreamland Arts theater true destinations for people from our neighborhood and from other parts of the Cities. Furthermore, the pedestrian traffic created by a successful restaurant of high quality contributes to public safety in a neighborhood at night.

Adding alcohol options is appropriate given the type of food Groundswell proposes to serve, and will make the restaurant more appealing for adult customers. Groundswell is aiming to become a casual bistro or cafe, not a bar, and its menu is aimed at responsible adults, not at students or people looking to drink to excess. The similar establishments I mentioned have not experienced problems related to the wine and beer they serve, and the higher prices of drinks at such places deters customers who might cause such problems.

The light rail is about to bring new opportunities for growth and revitalization in the Midway. We must make the neighborhood ready for it, and one of the best ways to do that is to elevate Groundswell into a top reason to visit or move here. I strongly encourage you to grant the restaurant the licensure it requests. Thank you for your time.

Adam Kintopf
1331 Blair Avenue
St. Paul, MN