



Kalama City Council - Council Agenda Item Information Form

Agenda Item: 4B – Downtown Sidewalk Usage

Meeting Date June 4, 2020

Prepared by: Coni McMaster, Clerk/Treasurer

Subject: Downtown Sidewalk/Street Use

Summary: At the meeting on May 21st the Council requested input from the businesses, mainly restaurants downtown, on how allowing more outdoor seating areas might benefit their businesses as they reopen under Phase 2 with limited capacity for occupancy. Councilmember Merz contacted the restaurants and received a response that only two would really like to utilize this as an option. See his email attached. The Chamber also put out a request for input, but as of Friday I have not received any information.

Recommendation : Based on the information from Councilmember Merz, my recommendation is that we encourage any business (not only restaurants) to submit the application for sidewalk dining showing how they would utilize the sidewalk area or other right-of-way to service their patrons while still allowing for pedestrian traffic, social distancing, any licensing requirements such as Liquor Control Board regulations, and safety for employees, patrons and the general public. The applications could be for daily use such as Playa Azul has used or it could be for weekend sidewalk sales. The Council could make a motion to waive the fees for 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We could also encourage the Chamber to apply for a downtown wide sidewalk sale weekend once we move to Phase 3. I will be checking to see if advertising of an event focused on the business community as a COVID recovery event might be covered by the CARES funding as economic aid.

► **Draft/Suggested Motion:** I move the City Council waive fees for any downtown Sidewalk usage/dining permits for 2020 due to the economic effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, and government shutdown of businesses.

From: mmerz05@kalama.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:09 PM
To: cityclerk@kalama.com
Subject: Outdoor Seating for Kalama Businesses

I spoke with all restaurants in downtown Kalama other than the Columbia Inn (whom I will speak with before noon on the 28th), and the two who expressed a desire to possibly place tables outside were Playa Azul and Poker Pete's. The other restaurants all expressed contentment with their current arrangements. I also did not speak with McMenamin's Harbor Lodge, as they are not in the downtown corridor.

I am available any time to participate in a special meeting of the city council to cast a vote in favor of providing this opportunity to the businesses who wish to take the city up on it. I am of the belief we should get it done before the weekend is over.

Thanks,

Matthew Merz
Kalama City Council #5