



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Mark Brodeur, Community & Economic Development Director
MEETING DATE: February 17, 2016
SUBJECT: Amend Municipal Code Chapter 15.16.045 - Sidewalk Seating and Sidewalk Dining;

CEQA: Draft ordinance involves negligible or no expansion of use, and thus qualifies for an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act under Class 1, as set forth in section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines.

In between first and second reading, a summary of the draft ordinance, approved by the City Attorney, was published in the City's newspaper of record. There have been no substantive changes that have in any way amended the general scope and original purpose of the ordinance since first reading, as addressed by Article 15 (e) of the Charter.

RECOMMENDATION

Hold second reading and Amend Municipal Code Chapter 15.16.045 - Sidewalk Seating and Sidewalk Dining

DISCUSSION

On February 3, 2016, the City Council heard the First Reading of the Sidewalk Dining Ordinance. Some minor modifications were recommended and subsequently made to the Ordinance regarding barriers, furniture removal and sight-impaired access.

Over the past year, a Sidewalk Dining Pilot Program was in place. There were a total of fourteen applicants. The Community and Economic Development Department did receive some complaints over the lack of five foot clearance at Pavel's Bakerei due largely in part to a regulatory pole sign that created a pinch point on the sidewalk. That situation has been remedied.

An obvious issue has been the fence barriers employed at four locations. In most, but not all cases, the barriers are a requirement for serving alcohol. It is not a City requirement. It is a requirement imposed by the Alcohol Control Board. If alcohol was not served, the barriers would not be permitted.

People need to have a reason to be, and stay, in a particular place. The more activities and options a retail street offers, the more it attracts diverse groups of people – which are essential for creating a place that feels vibrant and dynamic. But it's not enough to offer a wide, unfettered sidewalk for pedestrians passing through. The design of a great street should get people to slow

down and want to make purchases, linger and socialize. Great streets have an “inside-outside” dynamic where indoor activity spills onto the street – whether that’s through sidewalk displays of merchandise, outdoor cafés, or special events or programming that take place in the right-of-way.

Sidewalk dining in our downtown is not being requested to afford restaurants extra seating (in fact, some patrons choose to dine outdoors regardless of the available seating inside). That is not the purpose. The allowance of sidewalk dining should not be thought of as a quid-pro-quo for use of our sidewalks in commercial areas. Dining outside brings an added social aspect to the activity on the street that being indoors cannot match. Having folks sitting, eating, walking, conversing and socializing on a downtown retail street creates a better place, and when the City supports making Lighthouse Avenue a better place, the community benefits as a result.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Sidewalk Dining Ordinance

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Mark Brodeur
Community & Economic Development Director

REVIEWED BY:

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
Interim City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 16-0XX

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
AMENDING PACIFIC GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER
15.16 RELATING TO SIDEWALK DINING ADJACENT TO
EATING ESTABLISHMENTS**

WHEREAS, the City last amended its Municipal Code pertaining to Sidewalk Encroachments in 1965 by Ordinance 525 (New Series 2) and last amended its Municipal Code pertaining to sidewalk seating adjacent to eating establishments in 2013 by Ordinance 13-003; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved a Sidewalk Dining Pilot Program on January 21, 2015 to examine impacts of modified regulations to better inform the Council as to whether this approach should be enacted on a continuing, long-term basis and

WHEREAS, the Community and Economic Development Department did not experience any negative outcomes with the Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pacific Grove enjoys mild weather conducive to sidewalk dining; and

WHEREAS, several eating establishments in the commercial areas participated in the Pilot Program and want to be permitted to serve their patrons out-of-doors and believe this activity enlivens the City, enhances revenues, and makes commercial areas more pedestrian friendly; and

WHEREAS, this measure allows the City Council to establish appropriate fees and conditions for use of the City's public sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is intended to minimizing adverse impacts on the walkability of sidewalks by requiring specific setbacks and rules for placement of furniture on the public sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance shall enable permitting and use of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use, and thus qualifies for an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act under Class 1, as set forth in section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE:

SECTION 1. The foregoing recitals are adopted as findings of the City Council as though set forth fully herein.

SECTION 2. For the period beginning with the enactment of this ordinance, the provisions of Chapter 15.16 of the Pacific Grove Municipal Code shall be modified as shown in Sections 3 and 4 of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. Pacific Grove Municipal Code section 15.16.045 – Sidewalk Seating and Sidewalk Dining – shall be amended as shown in this section. Text shown in ***bold italics*** shall be added, and text shown in ~~strikeout format~~ shall be deleted.

15.16.045 Sidewalk Seating and Sidewalk Dining

The ***Zoning Administrator, after holding a duly noticed public hearing*** shall have the authority to allow, ***deny***, or condition placement of tables, chairs, ***benches, and other normally associated furniture to encroach*** on public sidewalks abutting eating establishments for ***sidewalk dining purposes within all commercial*** zoning districts, subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

(a) Tables, chairs, benches, ***umbrellas, waiter stands, barriers, tray stands, planters, trash receptacles, and other furniture normally associated with dining*** (collectively hereafter for convenience, “furniture”) ***may be placed on the sidewalk but*** shall not be placed so as to obstruct the minimum unobstructed pedestrian ***travel*** width of the sidewalk ***defined as a minimum of five feet. All applicable Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirement minimums shall be met. Sidewalk dining furniture placed on the sidewalk shall be of a consistent design and employ similar materials and colors as approved by the City to complement all other approved sidewalk furniture and fixtures, such as street lights and bicycle racks, throughout the City.***

(b) Furniture shall not be attached, ***drilled into, adhered to, chained to***, or otherwise affixed to the sidewalk, ***tree, pole, or*** other furniture, or ***to*** any permanent structure or building.

(c) ***Sidewalk dining furniture shall be placed immediately adjacent to and abutting the eating establishment and shall not be placed adjacent to the curb. Exceptions to this requirement may be made for self-serve seating (i.e., no table service).***

(d) ***Eating establishments serving alcohol shall delineate and separate the sidewalk dining area with a non-affixed, removable barrier/fence (e.g. a planter box, rope, fence, or other material approved by the Zoning Administrator). Each such barrier shall be easy to remove and store. No barrier shall exceed 36 inches in height. Barriers shall not be chain link fencing, solid wood walls, cyclone fencing, or any material bearing advertising. Eating establishments that do not serve alcohol are not permitted to delineate the sidewalk dining area with a barrier in order to keep the appearance of an open sidewalk.***

(e) All barriers must be detectable to visually impaired pedestrians who employ a cane for guidance. Therefore, the bottom of barriers must be no greater than 27 inches above the sidewalk surface.

(f) Eating establishments, and all others, are prohibited from making any modification to the public sidewalk such as staining the concrete, painting, or tiling. Minor patching of holes and cracks, and the elimination of trip and fall hazards, are to be referred to the Public Works Department for modification.

(g) Use of sound amplification on the exterior of an eating establishment is prohibited.

(h) Sidewalk dining and associated furniture as listed in paragraph (a) above is prohibited on any public sidewalk that is less than seven-feet wide unless the storefront is setback from the back of sidewalk. Further, sidewalk dining and associated furniture shall not occupy more than 45% of the gross total width of any public sidewalk.

(i) The eating establishment placing the furniture shall provide proof of public liability insurance, naming the City as an additional insured, in the amount and form subject to approval of the City Attorney.

(j) Businesses placing furniture shall be responsible for keeping the furniture and immediately surrounding area clean and presentable at all times, and to this end shall promptly clean and remove all litter, spillage, and other materials.

(k) Approved Sidewalk Dining Permits allowing - placement of furniture or associated furniture may be revoked by the - Zoning Administrator at any time, for violation of any of these restrictions or -conditions.

(l) Application for sidewalk dining and placement of furniture shall be made on a form provided by the Community and Economic Development Department. The Zoning Administrator may refer the application to any City department, commission or committee for a recommendation. The decision of the Zoning Administrator shall be subject to direct appeal to the Planning Commission in accord with Pacific Grove Municipal Code sections 23.74.020(b) and 23.74.030.

(m) At least 10 days prior to the Zoning Administrator's public hearing on the Sidewalk Dining Permit, the property abutting the sidewalk location shall be posted with notice of the request for and pending decision on the Permit. Two identical notices shall be posted on public property within 200 feet of the property site in positions clearly visible to the public.

(n) Sidewalk Dining Permits are interruptible and terminable licenses for use granted by the City. No property interest shall be conveyed to the eating establishment or to any other person. The City shall have the right and power, acting through the Zoning Administrator, to revoke, prohibit, or limit operation and use of a Sidewalk Dining Permit at any time by reason of anticipated, threatened, or actual problems or conflicts in the use for the sidewalk area. Such circumstances may arise from, but are not limited to, changing patterns of sidewalk use, scheduled festivals or similar events, parades or marches, repairs to the street or sidewalk, or for any other reason.

(o) Sidewalk dining furniture, equipment, and other amenities must be removed from the public sidewalk dining area for extended periods of eating establishment closure (two weeks or more). The City may require removal during special events, etc. The City shall have the right to unilaterally remove unapproved exterior furniture and/or equipment from the sidewalk dining space, and costs of removal shall be borne by the eating establishment.

(p) Sidewalk dining furniture, equipment, and other amenities shall be constructed of metal, unless an alternative material is approved in advance by the Zoning Administrator.

(q) Each eating establishment may use umbrellas provided each shall maintain the seven-foot minimum sidewalk clearance for the entire height of the umbrella. The base weight of the umbrella shall be of appropriate size and design to avoid tipping over in the wind. Freestanding gas heaters shall not be utilized where umbrellas are present, for fire safety. Umbrellas shall not bear commercial logos.

(r) Each Sidewalk Dining Permit shall require payment of two fees: (1) the general Encroachment Permit fee (a one-time fee for placing furniture on the public sidewalk); and (2) an annual Sidewalk Dining License fee associated with continued use of the public sidewalk. The City Council shall set both fees by resolution in its Master Fee Schedule.

(s) Applications for each Sidewalk Dining Permit must submit:

1. Description. A brief written description to include the name and address of the Eating Establishment, a description of the proposed sidewalk dining space, the number of tables and seats, whether the Eating establishments intends to serve alcohol, and whether water credits or water allocations are needed for the proposed Permit.

2. Site Plan. A plan, drawn to scale, showing the proposed sidewalk dining space including all tables, seats, associated furniture, and barriers; the plan

shall show all sidewalk clearance dimensions and elevations. Specifications shall be provided for any sidewalk heaters.

3. Photos or Drawings. Color photos, renderings, and/or graphics shall show the setup, type of furniture, and materials to be used for all surfaces, including barriers or umbrellas.

(t) The Zoning Administrator is authorized to place or modify conditions under this section on Sidewalk Dining adjacent to eating establishments to promote public health and/or safety, or to address unique site factors that apply to a specific location.

(u) Sidewalk Dining Permits and/or Encroachment Permits issued under this section do not afford an exclusive right for use by the eating establishment or its patrons. The general public may make reasonable temporary use of the area and furniture at that location provided this public use does not interfere with the Sidewalk Dining use.

SECTION 4. The City Council shall set the appropriate sidewalk license fee and sidewalk encroachment fee in the City's Master Fee Schedule.

SECTION 5. In accord with Article 15 of the City Charter, this ordinance shall take effect thirty days following passage and adoption hereof.

SECTION 6. The City Manager and City Clerk are directed to perform all tasks necessary to implement this ordinance. This measure may, but shall not be required to, cause republication of the Pacific Grove Municipal Code.

SECTION 7. If any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, or any part thereof, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, or any part thereof, or its application to other persons or circumstances. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed and adopted each provision, section, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
this 17th day of February, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

APPROVED:

BILL KAMPE, Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA KANDELL, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAVID C. LAREDO, City Attorney