

ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – JUNE 16, 2020

Public comment from Kristen Gray:

“Ms. Mayor and Councilmembers,

As you are all well aware, the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have, once again, shone a light on systemic racism in the US, particularly as it relates to policing. In response, thousands of people across the globe, including here in Redmond, have come together to protest anti-Black racism and the policies and practices that uphold it. This issue isn't about “a few bad apples” who are outwardly racist, but rather a system with beginnings rooted in slavery that has falsely and disproportionality criminalized and penalized Black individuals throughout history. Redmond residents and the Council have a responsibility to address racism in our community and work towards equity for all. A necessary first step in this process is examination of our city's practices, including within the police department, and transparency for residents. We can then work together to develop priorities and action plans to address combat racism in our community. In support of these efforts, I ask that the Council convene a Town Hall or other Q&A forum to discuss our city's approach to equity in policing and how the Council allocates funds to the police department and other community resources. This forum will allow residents to better understand the priorities and viewpoints of the Council and to weigh in on the direction of the city's future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristen Gray, PhD, MS
Redmond resident”

Public comment from Carolyn & Tony Scott:

Dear Redmond City Council,

My husband, Tony Scott and I, own two Redmond restaurants: Woodblock & Spark Pizza. Just like many other businesses the covid-19 shutdown has devastated our business. Woodblock we just reopened for takeout only. Although we have been able to secure the PPP & 100% of our employees came back, the constantly changing rules for usage has us with employees back on unemployment again. They want to work, but we don't have the volume to employ them.

We need space.

We need it quickly.

We need it very inexpensively.

Space -

- Even 50% allowance inside/outside does little to help small space restaurants that need to maintain 6 feet between tables. I am not questioning the guidelines are correct and we

will of course follow them, however 25%, 50%, or 75% of tables on the patios does not change the number of tables we can accommodate at 6 feet.

- Woodblock has park space behind and in front of the building. 2 potential parking spaces that could be turned into seating per the planning commission's plans. Would the city be willing to work with our landlords regarding the retail parking lots?
- Cleveland: What about adding a walking area on the parking spots of the street and allowing cafe tables on the entire sidewalk for the warm months? Then we wouldn't have to incur the cost of building platforms?
- Spark, we have a few parking spaces behind our restaurant - if we could have parking at the Arco lot or street parking, we could use this for tables.
- Lastly, being able to serve alcohol in these new spaces is essential.

Speed -

- We only have nice weather for a few months and if we are to weather this thru perhaps another wave/social distancing in the fall-spring we have to do this now.
- We need a very quick turnaround for city permitting and from liquor control.

Cost -

- Woodblock - We fully understand that the decreased permitting cost to \$1k per parking spot on Cleveland was a concession. However, the cafe permit is \$620 for a couple of tables and then the 2 parking spaces would be able to have 3 tables maximum. \$2,000 for parking space permits + the cost of build-out + labor = not a good business decision due to cost, speed and lack of use due to weather once summer is over.
- Spark? We want to add space in our parking lot, but can we do it with enough savings if it is possible at all?

Thank you for taking our needs into consideration. We appreciate it. Anything that can be done to streamline, speed up, and keep costs down, could be the difference in our restaurants surviving this pandemic.

Public comment from Chris Knestrick:

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing in support of AM No. 20-083 in order to help local restaurants have easier access to adding outdoor seating during the Covid Pandemic. I believe that this is reasonable from both an economic as well as a health perspective, given that transmission is much less likely to occur in open air outdoor settings (as a customer, I have been very wary about eating inside in all but the most empty restaurants). I am happy to see the city looking for creative ways to help reduce the burden on business in these troubled times and believe that this is a step in the right direction.

Thanks you,

Chris Knestrick