

Sidewalk Dining Input Meeting

February 5, 2018

1. Purpose for the meeting
2. Town interests
 - a. Safety (ie egress)
 - b. Vibrancy
 - c. Variety
 - d. Cleanliness and maintenance
 - e. Expeditious application reviews by simplifying the process
 - f. Thriving
3. What are the restaurant owners' interests?
 - a. Gathering area
 - b. Cater to more than students
 - c. Variety
 - d. Diversity (families and students)
 - e. Sustainable
 - f. Thriving
 - g. Branding
4. Background on sidewalk dining rules in Chapel Hill
 - a. 1990s: Town's ordinance written and enacted, most likely during a time that sidewalk dining was being discouraged. Some parameters concern safety but many govern size and shape of furnishings and other detailed requirements.
 - b. 2013: State pass NC GS 136-27.4 which is law now but will be part of the NC Building Code when the new edition is published later this year. Requirements are safety-related only and only apply to sidewalk dining in public rights of way on state-maintained streets (Note: Franklin and Columbia are both state-maintained streets).
 - c. Now: the Downtown 2020 Strategy includes lowering barriers for small businesses and increasing vibrancy and variety in Downtown. This demonstrates a desire to increase safe sidewalk dining in Downtown by making the process easier.
5. NCGA 136-27.4
 - a. Sarah provided copies of the statute and invited questions.
6. New application
 - a. Sarah provided copies of the new application and some changes were recommended. These will be incorporated asap and loaded to the website. (COMPLETE)
7. Ordinance re-write opportunity
 - a. Restaurants are invited to provide any insight or suggestions for the Town's revised ordinance (Article VI, Section 17.76-88). The Town will bring revisions back to restaurants before they are presented to Town leadership for approval.
 - b. We discussed the order in which a new, un-opened restaurant should apply for a sidewalk dining permit. The application requires the occupancy number for the restaurant be known which isn't provided until the Certificate of Occupancy is provided to the restaurant until its construction is complete. However, the restaurant is invited to complete a draft of their application and submit it to the Town for discussion before

their CO is provided so it can be prepared and submitted as soon as they know their occupancy.

8. Next steps
 - a. Restaurants that do not currently have a sidewalk dining permit should complete the new application online [here](#).
 - b. Sarah will make revisions based on the conversation in the meeting and upload asap. An example site plan will also be provided to show the level of detail required by the Town. (COMPLETE)
 - c. The Downtown Partnership will send a message to restaurants about the process and next steps. Once this is done, we will contact restaurants that do not currently have a permit and those that have safety concerns based on the State ordinance.
 - d. Town and the Downtown Partnership will work on revisions to the ordinance.
 - e. Once revisions are drafted, another meeting will be held where restaurants are invited to provide their input on the language.

Questions and Answers:

Q: When will the Town discuss specific restaurants' challenges about their space and furnishings?

A: When a restaurant applies for sidewalk dining, the Town will work with them to determine how many tables and chairs

Q: What is a restaurant shares a wall with another restaurant that also wants to do sidewalk dining?
Could tables and chairs be shared?

A: Both can apply for sidewalk dining and should note in their application that some furnishings will be shared. Sharing of ABC licenses or serving would need to be reviewed by the ALE board.