

Municipality of Jasper
Special Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 | 1:30 pm
Jasper Library and Cultural Centre, Quorum Room

Virtual viewing and participation Council attendance is primarily back in Council chambers at the Jasper Library and Cultural Centre. This meeting was also conducted virtually and available for public livestreaming through Zoom. Public viewing and participation during Council meetings is through both Zoom livestreaming and in-person attendance.

Present Mayor Richard Ireland, Councillors Helen Kelleher-Empey, Wendy Hall, Ralph Melnyk, Rico Damota, Kathleen Waxer and Scott Wilson

Also present Bill Given, Chief Administrative Officer
Natasha Malenchak, Director of Finance & Administration
Christine Nadon, Director of Protective & Legislative Services
Christopher Read, Director of Community Development
Amanda Stevens, Communications Officer
Emma Acorn, Legislative Services Coordinator
Jason Stockfish, The Fitzhugh
Bob Covey, The Local
Presenters – Stavros Korogonas – Jasper Pizza Place
Mike Cassio – Cassio’s Italian Restaurant
Brett Ireland – Jasper Brewing Company
Soto Korogonas – Downstream Restaurant
Candace Broughton – Jasper Motorcycle Tours
Pattie Pavlov – Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce
Glen Leitch – Patricia Street Deli
34 observers

Call to order Mayor Ireland called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Additions to Agenda #142/22 MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that Council amend the following item on today’s agenda:
- Change the title of item 3.1 to read ‘Commercial Use of Public Space’

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Approval of agenda #143/22 MOTION by Councillor Kelleher-Empey – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the agenda for the March 29, 2022 special meeting as amended.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Commercial Use of Public Space Council acknowledged written submissions were received from the following individuals and organizations, which will form a part of the public record as an attachment to the meeting minutes:

Harvest Food & Drink – Sean Walker
Mountain Air – Karen Jacobs
Jasper Rock & Jade – Anna Murray
Haldi Indian Restaurant
The Raven Bistro – Mike & Ashley Kliewer
Parks Canada
Jasper Wafflato – Suhas Sawant
Cassio’s Italian Restaurant – Mike Cassio
Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce – Pattie Pavlov
Downstream Restaurant – Soto Korogonas

Administration presented recommendations on the parameters to include in the application to Parks Canada for a discretionary use permit for sidewalk seating. Council asked questions to clarify conditions, legislation, roles, definitions, future goals and strategies.

Council heard presentations from local business owners in person and on Zoom from Stavros Korogonas (Jasper Pizza Place); Mike Cassio (Cassio’s Italian

Restaurant); Brett Ireland (Jasper Brewing Company); Soto Korogonas (Downstream Restaurant); Candace Broughton (Jasper Motorcycle Tours); Pattie Pavlov (Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce); and Glen Leitch (Patricia Street Deli).

Areas of concern highlighted by presenters included timelines; the use of jersey barriers; colors; logos; definition of tents; preparations for inclement weather; past investments; and more.

The public hearing portion of the meeting ended at 3:08 p.m., and Mayor Ireland called for a recess until 3:15 p.m.

Council returned to discuss options and ask Administration some questions.

Mayor Ireland called a recess from 4:14 to 4:19 p.m.

#144/22

MOTION by Councillor Damota – BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to apply for a discretionary use permit for commercial use of public space, including the prescribed conditions:

- 1) that installations be permitted May 1 - Oct 24, 2022
- 2) installations may be located on the sidewalk with the pedestrian extensions in the parking lane
- 3) installations may be located in the parking lane with safety measures in place, including the possibility of jersey barriers
- 4) for the 2022 season installations which had been previously used in 2021 be accepted
- 5) Council work with other interested parties to establish a working group to consider further conditions which might apply to commercial use of public space in future years

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Ice Plant Tender Award
#145/22

MOTION by Councillor Wilson – BE IT RESOLVED that Council award the Jasper Arena Ice Plant Replacement Contract to ICOM Refrigeration in the amount of \$2,484,353.93.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Paid Parking Tender Award
#146/22

MOTION by Councillor Waxer – BE IT RESOLVED that Council award the RFP for Mobile Parking Payment Technology Services to HotSpot Parking Inc. for a five year term to April 30, 2027.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Adjournment
#147/22

MOTION by Councillor Hall – BE IT RESOLVED that, there being no further business, the special meeting of March 29, 2022 be adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

FOR	AGAINST	
7 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

Expanding businesses off-lease and onto Municipality of Jasper lands designated for Streets and Sidewalks is not a typical use for these lands and therefore the use of Patio Seating and retail expansion is deemed to be a discretionary use.

Initially the use of patio seating was approved as part of a temporary and rapid response to Covid measures that restricted indoor seating capacity in order to assist the business community for the summer of 2020. In 2021, looking for a longer term solution the Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the Municipality of Jasper, brought the discretionary use application to the Planning and Development Advisory Committee for public consultation. At the conclusion of the 2021 season the Chamber gathered information and brought forward further community input to help shape a long term solution.

In the winter of 2021 Parks Canada enlisted the expertise of its architects to study the long term use of Patio seating and provide recommendations to both Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper administration. From the development authority perspective, a change of use, change of intensity of use, and the erecting of structures (fences and boardwalks) are all considered a “development” as defined in the [Town of Jasper Land Use Policy](#), which includes as a requirement adherence to the Architectural Motif Guidelines for the Town of Jasper (“Motif Guidelines”). The guidelines give some historical perspective of the townsite which leads to the defining a Mountain Architecture for Jasper which gives our unique town its architectural design characteristics. The guidelines give direct reference to pedestrian movement, parking, public outdoor spaces, and the colour and materials to be used in developments. As can be noted from the past two summers, the town’s character, in our most visible areas, are greatly affected by the use of patio seating on public thoroughfares and careful consideration is warranted.

The [National Parks Signs Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 1130\)](#) (“Sign Regulations”) and the Motif Guidelines include signage requirements. A sign is defined as a publicly displayed notice and includes logos. A patio umbrella with a business name, or logo, would be considered a sign and not permitted as such. A patio umbrella without signage would just be considered furniture, but with its visual impact would be limited to the Jasper Motif colour palate. The palate can generally be broken down to be browns, greens, greys, and subdued colours.

A draft Parks Canada Discretionary Use Permit, a type of development permit, for the Municipality of Jasper includes conditions directly from the motif guidelines and from the [National Parks Signs Regulations \(C.R.C., c. 1130\)](#). This was provided to the Municipality to show what a permit would look like to ensure the use of land and the structures erected are within these guidelines and regulations and currently includes:

- the seasonal extension of retail and eating establishment spaces onto the Sidewalks and portion of the Streets (parking lane) (“Discretionary Use”)
- states the structures to be erected including fences (to separate diners from sidewalks or traffic) and boardwalks are to be made of wood, natural or stained with natural wood colours. Fences may also black metal with black rails.
- Tents are not permitted. Tents are not conducive to the Jasper Mountain Architecture and should only be used for short term special events (a few days at most).
- Patio umbrellas are permitted, without advertising including logos, but must be neutral in colour with the examples of Black, Grey, White or Green (adhere to the Jasper Motif Colour Palate).
- Jersey Barriers are also not permitted as they appear industrial in nature and indications are that they are not required.
- Includes a grandfathering of installations that were permitted in the 2021 season will be allowed in the 2022 season with the exclusion of tents.
- Any installations on the Site that involve building code are not authorized under this permit.

What is not included in the Draft Discretionary Use Permit:

- Where the patio seating or retail areas are to be located. The recommendation is that they be either in the parking lane or the sidewalk, but it is not a condition / requirement of the permit.
- If applications to the Municipality meet the criteria outlined in the permit, there are no other Parks Canada Permits required other than the single Discretionary Use Permit issued to the Municipality of Jasper.

Parks Canada can offer assistance to determine if a colour is subdued. The following is borrowed from the OCA Guidelines stucco and roof colour palate which demonstrate examples of what would be acceptable subdued colours for an umbrella:

stucco colour palette



roof colour palette



From: [Harvest Food & Drink](#)
To: [Municipality of Jasper](#)
Subject: Mayor and Council re sidewalk seating
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 11:45:18 PM

Submission #2

Dear Mayor and fellow council members,

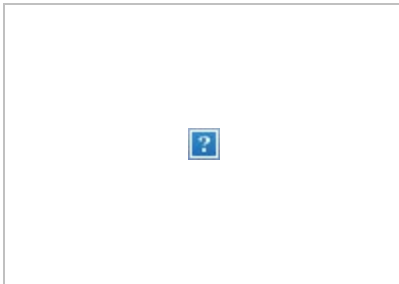
As a fellow resident and business member of Jasper I have a few concerns with regards to Parks Canada's guidelines for sidewalk seating in the next few years. Our business Harvest Food & Drink was allowed to have sidewalk seating in front of our building last year with the help of bylaw and the CAO. I am in favor in principle with the changes that Park's Canada would like to have happen. The reality for the businesses on Patricia street is to be excluded from having patio seating as to the unique design and location of pedestrian crosswalks. I would like to see the MOJ look at the businesses on Patricia street on an individual basis and work with them so we all have an equal opportunity to be successful and contribute to both the community and to the National Park. I would also like to see council discuss the reduction of vehicle traffic on Patricia street to one lane of traffic or to close to all traffic for the summer months just as the town of Banff did last summer.

I would also be willing to attend any meetings to provide input in regards to these issues

Thank you for you time

Regards,

Sean Walker





MOUNTAIN AIR

Submission #3

622 Connaught Drive,
P.O. Box 1569,
Jasper, Alberta
Canada T0E 1E0

T. 780-852-3760,
E. mountainair.jasper@gmail.com

March 24, 2022

Mr. Mayor and Council Members

The past two summers were full of challenges for our business community, especially those in the restaurant businesses who continually had to manage their business plans on a dime to adhere to the ever-changing directions from our government. The one thing I feel we got right on the 600 block of Connaught was the patio seating. Soto Korogonas did an excellent job at making the patio pleasing to look at as well as comfortable for public social distancing rules. At Mountain Air we didn't miss those two parking spaces that were taken over by patio seating, in fact we reaped the benefits of having people outside our business. People had time to peek in our windows, adhere to social distancing and shop at their leisure. It created a hub of excitement in our area and it helped that the patio was used morning and night by two different businesses. I sincerely hope that this summer experiment will continue for 2022 and beyond. As for the new paid parking, I don't think that the restaurants with patios should be paying any compensation to the town right now. They have jumped through hoops to keep their businesses open and now is the time that we as a community should support them and do everything we can to keep our amazing town open for business.

Thanks

Karen Jacobs
Owner of Mountain Air Clothing

Submission #4

On Mar 24, 2022, at 2:26 PM, Haldi Indian Restaurant <haldijasper@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I am business owner in Jasper. I own 2 restaurant in the town. Been paying tax for what business I do. New policy on Patio will definitely ruin my business. Not only that, it's not fair for us because our competitor may do good business then us just because they don't have to follow the same policy. It's totally risk for big time to my business since all of the sudden we hear this. I will really appreciate if our thoughts are taken into consideration.

Thank you!!

27 March 2022

Re: Sidewalk Seating

Dear Counsellors,

Firstly, thank you for all your time and effort in working towards getting the sidewalk seating program to move ahead, both for this summer and in the years moving forward.

Parks Canada proposed patio template is simply not viable for many businesses in town based on individual locations and sidewalk obstacles. Pedestrian sidewalk extensions located in the parking lane create the least flexible option, and the most amount of street and sidewalk wasted space.

The width of our street front space for The Raven Bistro, located at 504 Patricia St is only 6m. When we built our patio for the 2021 season in the parking lane it allowed us to use this full width of our commercial space which equaled 8 tables. When analyzing the option of what this new template would allow us to build, we would lose 2m of space on either side of our patio as the walkway space needed to access the sidewalk extension walkaround. The end result would leave us with just three tables. These three tables would be a sad look for our frontage and likely not something we would move forward with. For our business and many others, Parks Canada's proposed walkaround design is essentially the same as no longer allowing sidewalk seating. Our patio would cease to exist under the proposed guidelines. If we did try to move forward with it, the walkaround design would also create massive congestion at the door to our restaurant and our neighboring business as there would no longer be appropriate space by these entrances to safely allow pedestrian traffic.

The option to build patios in the parking lane allowed businesses to collaborate, which created an energy in the area, thus attracting people to the area and benefiting all surrounding businesses. By building sidewalk extension walkarounds, this will no longer be possible as these patios will be blocking entrances to neighboring businesses. Businesses that are located in second story spaces or basements will not be able to have any patio space as building on the sidewalk adjacent to the building would be blocking the entrances of main floor businesses.

The reason that almost all businesses in the last two summers built their patios in the parking lane is not because it was a better option than building adjacent to their business, but rather because it was the only possible option.

Please accept this letter as our support in doing whatever is possible to ensure that businesses have the flexibility to create what works best for their space as the current Parks Canada proposed guidelines are simply not feasible for most businesses to work with. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help in this matter.

Best Regards,

Mike & Ashley Kliewer

Owners, The Raven Bistro



Submission #6

March 27, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to Parks Canada's proposed parameters for the sidewalk seating in the town site of Jasper.

To begin, I would like to comment on my observations of the success of the patio seating in general. My business has been operating in Jasper National Park since 1979. In the 16 years that I personally have been part of the shop, one of the most consistent comments I would hear from our visitors is how much they wished Jasper would have more options for outdoor dining in the downtown core. Fast forward and here we are, patios galore! From my observations, the patios have been a huge success. And, due to the nature of the current pandemic, they have also been crucial. Both to the enjoyment of our visitors and to the survival of many of our local restaurants.

This brings me to my first concern with Parks Canada's proposed parameters. To limit the patios to sidewalks only will discriminate against many of our local restaurants whose businesses are not at street level and who are unable to utilize the sidewalk for a multitude of reasons. The need and desire for patio dining is clear and all local restaurants deserve – and should have - equal opportunity to capitalize on offering outdoor dining. To not give all restaurants equal opportunity would not only be discriminatory, it would also create a biased and two-tiered dining system clearly putting some businesses at a strong advantage and others at a great disadvantage. Local businesses all are equal tax payers and deserve the same rights and opportunities as one another.

The past couple of years brought many, many challenges to all business. The hospitality industry being one of the hardest hit. These business owners showed incredible resiliency in order to survive these extreme times. When patios were initially approved to be piloted, many businesses had to get creative due to the location of their business. One example of this would

be the Downstream Lounge, located in the basement directly below my business on the 600 block of Connaught. A patio directly on the sidewalk would place them exactly in front of my store windows, blocking both the view of my shop and also access to my business which would certainly have a drastic impact on my revenue. However, not having a patio and the ability to compete with other restaurants during our busy tourist summer season, would certainly have a catastrophic effect on their business. So, they got creative and came up with a solution. After two summers with this arrangement, I observed it being a great success and it worked very well for both of our businesses.

They made extreme effort to keep their patio clean, presentable and they served many, many visitors and locals all season long. Their patio breathed life and energy onto our sidewalks and into our town. They sent business my way, I sent business their way. It was an arrangement we were both happy with.

We get hundreds of people in the shop on a daily basis in the summer months. The feedback on the patios from our customers was extremely positive. I did not hear of even one negative comment on the actual placement of the patios. Not one. Overall, people were absolutely thrilled to be able to enjoy their favourite restaurants in the fresh air, not one person seemed to care if the patio was placed here or there.

I strongly support the position that these businesses be allowed to maintain the placement of their patios and that Parks Canada not discriminate against them.

The second matter I take issue with is Parks Canada's decision to not allow tent style coverage or signage on the patios.

With our constantly changing weather, proper coverage over the patios is absolutely essential. The tent style shelters offer the best coverage possible. The coverage from the table top umbrellas is simply not adequate when inclement weather rolls in. Where are the diners supposed to go if they get chased off by bad weather on the patio mid-meal?? Visitor experience is of paramount importance and keeping them dry or to provide shade in extreme heat while they enjoy a nice meal on a patio is important. Not to mention that proper coverage during inclement weather also allows many of the restaurants to remain serving these customers, thereby maintaining a good revenue during these difficult times.

In regards to the signage, I feel as though having some signage is critical in identifying which patio belongs to which business. Particularly if Parks Canada is insisting on a more uniform approach visually. Without signage and some sort of personality, it's possible our town would start to look like some sort of cookie cutter outdoor row housing. Whilst some uniformity visually is a positive thing, we certainly don't want to be drowning in a sea of brown, cookie cutter patios. Also, the lack of signage would most definitely cause some confusion for our visitors and that is certainly not the type of experience anyone wishes them to have when heading out to enjoy a nice meal in our town.

I would like to encourage Parks Canada to consider allowing all local business equal opportunity on this matter and would hope that they would take into consideration all factors when making any decision moving forward.

Thank you,

Anna Murray

Owner Operator
Jasper Rock & Jade
PO Box 728
620 A Connaught Dr
(780) 852-3631
(780) 920-6895

Begin forwarded message:

Submission #7

From: Suhas Sawant <suhas231019@gmail.com>
Date: March 29, 2022 at 10:24:05 AM MDT
To: Richard Ireland <RIreland@town.jasper.ab.ca>, Rico Damota <RDamota@town.jasper.ab.ca>, ppavlov@jpcc.ca
Subject: Sidewalk Seating Recommendation -Jasper Wafflato

Good Morning Team,

This email is in support to the sidewalk seating in the town of Jasper which was possible due to a great teamwork between Jasper Municipality & Parks Canada for last 2 years.

As a new & a small business owner this was like a lifelong for our survival during the pandemic.

Sidewalk seating on the parking lane helped the entire process to run smoothly and was able to achieve its goal to its full potential.

It also helped us to create more job opportunities and a great way of income for many of our team members who are locals students/ residents.

We did receive great feedback from all our guests who were tourists and visited magical Jasper.

With the new proposal of seating on sidewalk means will create lots of other challenges and won't be able to use as before.

Specifically for our business we have 5 business who have their entrances within 10 ft which first leave us with any table space for sidewalk seating

Business like rafting, north face pizza Jasper Wafflato fleur cannabis and downstream

We will really request you to consider this options before reaching any decision

This results could decide if we can sustain for a long term or be out of market as with the amount of changes & inflation due to pandemic and war it's lot more challenging than before.

Thank you,
Kind Regards
Suhas
Team Wafflato
587-577-1908

This submission received prior to 1:30. Although Mr. Korogonas presented in person, for completeness, perhaps the written submission should be recorded with others in the minutes.

Richard Ireland

Mayor

Municipality of Jasper

Begin forwarded message:

From: SOTIRIOS KOROGONAS <soto7k@gmail.com>

Date: March 29, 2022 at 1:14:42 PM MDT

To: Richard Ireland <Rireland@town.jasper.ab.ca>, Wendy Hall <WHall@town.jasper.ab.ca>, "Rico Damota (External)" <rdamota@me.com>, Scott Wilson <SWilson@town.jasper.ab.ca>, Ralph Melnyk <rmelnyk@town.jasper.ab.ca>

Subject: Council special meeting March 29th 2022 - Re: Commercial Patios

Members of Council,

It is unfortunate but not surprising that we are convening once again on short notice and under duress to debate critical community matters held hostage by authorities in the Parks Canada. A situation that continues to be unique to our community without good cause or justification. Here are a few thoughts on the matters at hand today.

- Over the last two years, our patio has been a model of what could be possible with a fair and open regulatory process.
- We fought for rule changes that were indiscriminate and gave more businesses options to participate.
- The rules going forward need to be even more flexible to enable more ingenuity, innovation that allows for broad participation.
- We built a patio to fit our space that accommodated everyone around us and infringed on no one.
- The street seating has proven to be very popular with both residents and visitors alike.
- The current designs were borne out of necessity, available materials and with safety as a priority. There is no functional reason they have to be changed at this moment.
- Any changes deserve a thoughtful and complete design process with the aim of creating the best possible outcome for all parties.
- This will require time, patience, lots of input and thoughtful consideration. A process that should be thorough.
- A reasonable time frame and process is absolutely necessary for a successful long term outcome.

- Economically, There is no justification to mandate change at this time, no one is financially stable enough to make further investments.
- Any current and future design must make weather protection a critical priority! Without coverage, these spaces cannot and will not be functional.
- The investment in infrastructure, manpower, time and money cannot be justified without some minimum guarantee of usability and function.
- Aesthetics aside, our tents have proven to be the most critical element in the function of a patio. They have been assessed and deemed safe by a qualified engineer, we have had no issues or incidents during these two years. We have done our due diligence to ensure a safe and professional solution that enables functionality.
- Parks Canada's mandate here is obviously driven by aesthetics and image, without any consideration for the functionality or even the need of these spaces.
- Their priorities are arbitrarily subjective and without merit or good sense.
- Please give our businesses the reasonable time they need to overcome the fiscal and logistical challenges that are still bearing on them.
- Then help them create a responsible and calculated program for any long term changes.

Do what's right and stand up for the rational and sensible priorities that will help our businesses and our community continue our recovery. Do not let Parks Canada's arbitrary priorities further undermine this patio initiative or any other municipal land use decision. Do not let their dysfunction further derail the process of our self governance and handicap our ability to make good decisions for our community.

Submission #9

Please read the Jasper Park Chambers of Commerce's stance on this subject below. It will be presented to council at the special meeting at 1:30 PM tomorrow.

Good afternoon, Mayor Ireland, and Council. I would like to begin by saying on behalf of the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce, thank you! Thank you for scheduling this special meeting to speak and collaborate on commercial use of public space.

For many businesses in Jasper, Covid is not over. Most if not all businesses have not had a 'normal' business year in almost 3 years. The hardships are very real and impact every sector of our economy. While business was affording the opportunity to provide a safe outdoor dining environment in the wake of Covid, we believe this also offered an opportunity to broaden the conversation to include the added outdoor dining use of commercial space enhanced the esthetics of Jasper as a community and destination. To support this comment and all others to follow, the report (attached for reference) submitted to Council with the most recent statistics clearly defines the positivity rate AND also invites further discussion regarding the fee structure and other proposed enhancements.

The chamber, on three separate occasions undertook extensive data collection involving over 130 businesses in the downtown core directly involved or located in the areas that could be apportioned to patio seating. The upshot? There has been overwhelming support from the business community, visitors, and residents with a desire to see the program continue. There are only a few short months that outdoor dining is possible in the Canadian Rockies and people come from all over the world to enjoy this unique opportunity to enjoy the view while taking in Jasper's welcoming 'vibe' and incredible eateries. Recent changes to the discretionary use of commercial space going into the 2022 season state that architectural motif must use the 'walk around board walk' method. Parks Canada undertook a third-party consultation on this issue and the third party deemed the 'walkthrough' method as preferred. Each business that wants to participate in the program should be able to utilize their unique space to do so; patios should not be put into a one size fits all model. Patios should be examined on an individual basis with a goal of mutual collaboration toward success. Ultimately the walk around method would eliminate the ability for some operators to participate in the program.

This leads the Chamber to question why two different jurisdictions are overseeing one project adding to the confusion for operators: for example

- Taxes and permitting fees are remitted to the Municipality, the set up is enforced by Jasper's Bylaw department, yet Parks Canada determines the aesthetics of the patios on municipal land?
- Neither a building permit nor development permit are required, and no architect was needed to sign off on patio set up.
- Why then is the architectural motif being prescribed by Parks Canada in this case?

Businesses took immense pride in the setup of their patios and it was a wonderful way for an extension of their brand. Limiting the colors is hindering the operator to market their business and product, this in turn could cause confusion for customers looking for a specific patio. The desire to have muted colors can lead to a dull and boring façade. The bright, multiple colours bring excitement and energy to the downtown core. For example, the Pride flags all along downtown are bright and vibrant celebrating an inclusive community, the patios do the same. Minister Randy Boissenault was recently in Jasper and mentioned how great they looked, enhancing the community's welcoming nature. The Minister also told a fantastic story at an industry lunch that many in attendance at this meeting and watching online were

at; simply put the flags mean all the people. The same could be said for all the assorted colors of patios being inclusive of all the businesses and their own unique brands.

In closing I will ask that, on behalf of the many members of the Chamber, that patios as approved to proceed at a council meeting in February 2022, with the consideration of 2023 season addressing the possibility of motif considerations and resulting expenditures on behalf of businesses be resolved over the coming months.

Again, Covid does continue to influence the economy of Jasper in all respects and understanding the impact of that is paramount to collaboration in recovery.

As always, the Chamber welcomes the opportunity to continue this dialogue with suggestions and strategies to see the business community through all challenges as they arise.

Thank you.



March 29, 2022

Municipality of Jasper
Council Meeting
Re: Sidewalk Seating

' Presented without Prejudice'

My presentation states our concerns regarding the proposed changes to Sidewalk Seating suggested by Parks Canada for the Municipality of Jasper.

My comments are meant to be constructive keeping in mind what, we as a business in Jasper, have gone through for the past two (very costly) years.

1 – Instillations ONLY permitted May 15 to October 20

My only comment on this is weather permitting, it may be feasible for operators to install their patios earlier in the season and remove them later.

2 – Instillations shall only be located on the sidewalk, with pedestrian sidewalk extensions located in the parking lane.

Food and Beverage Staff should NOT be serving amongst pedestrians. It is not safe or sanitary. To date there are only 3 establishments that have their boardwalks in the parking lanes as originally mandated by the Municipality.

3 – Rails & Railings and Planter Boxes

Construction of railings and planter boxes ONLY using wood is NOT acceptable.

The railings we have are made of welded painted steel and additional instillations will also be of steel to match what we have.

I would like to add that the planter boxes used by the Municipality are made of stone and should be made available to any operator that can use them without charge since they are helping beautify the community.

A side note;

Parks Canada is using metal railings on the new houses they have built on Patricia Street. If it's good enough for Parks Canada, it should be good enough for the businesses or are they (Parks Canada) exempt from their own guide lines

4 – Tents & Signage (including logos) will not be permitted.

The use of tents may or not be a good thing. We prefer not to use them, but rather the instillation of a Gazebo type structure with a retractable roof for inclement weather may be a good thing for our customers. Constructed of wood within the framework in

an existing patio with a retractable roof would give a more protected eating area than one gets from tents or umbrellas. It's something to consider rather than saying NO up front.

Signage on the Tents and umbrellas only differentiates one establishment from the other. A question, are operators not allowed to advertise who and what they are!!!

We would however, prefer to see each establishment have their OWN patio rather than sharing patios during the day when not being used.

5 – Jersey Barriers NOT permitted.

We agree they should not be used.

I would like to note that we asked last season to install railings and we told NO that we had to use Jersey Barriers, so we went and purchased them at a cost of \$3470.00.

Low and behold two weeks after we installed our barriers, The Whistler's Inn, installed their boardwalk in front of the Whistle Stop Pub, with railings rather than Jersey barriers and used Town Planter Boxes for closing off each end of their walkway for vehicle safety.

To replace the Jersey Barriers with a railing would now cost us an additional \$3800.00. MONEY DOES NOT GROW ON TREES and for The Municipality to make decisions without reasonable discussion is not acceptable.

6 – Patio Umbrellas without Logos are permitted and must be Neutral Colors.

When does stupidity stop? Who is making these decisions and Why?? I think we deserve answers!!!

We sell food, beer, liquor and wine; are we not allowed to advertise on our own premises!!

7 – Year 2022 Exclusions

I have covered these items in my previous comments.

8 – Paid Parking May Force Patio Closures.

I would like to add the following regarding increased fees.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO INCREASE FEES!!

We have businesses in town that can't pay their taxes and rents.

This up-coming summer looks like it's going to be a busy one and we need all the revenue we can get without paying ANY INCREASED FEES and /or PARKING SPACE COSTS. It's bad enough that our food costs have already gone up over 12½ %.

The proposed \$1650.00 per stall is out of line, in fact the reduced amount of \$825.00 is still out of line. Payment of these fees would be the determining factor as whether one opens or closes their patio. Not all operators can afford the increases.

It's not the Municipality's job to curtail business.

There are 5 types of operators with patios.

- 1 - operators whose prime source of revenue is alcohol (ie; Breweries, Pubs and or Bars)
- 2 - restaurants whose prime source is food; (ie Cassios) ;
- 3 - pizza parlors;
- 4 - Cafes and Sandwich Shops (ie. Waffle House Cocos)
- 5 - Legions – who are in a class by themselves but compete head to head with the pubs.

Why is this important, because profit margins differ so much! I'll leave it to the two Council members, Mr. Damota and Mr. Melnyk to explain the differences.

Payment of these fees would almost force Cassios to go back to our old patio with half the seats we have with the extended patio. We would lose 25 seats and as others we can't afford to lose any more at this time. Millions has been lost!!!

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO INCREASE FEES!!!!!!!!!!


There may be a way for the Municipality to get more parking revenue and by changing Connaught Drive into two lane traffic, using the lanes closest to the medium and utilizing all the turning lanes that are already in place.

The Municipality would then have the entire closed lanes for parking. I'm not sure what the increased number of parking stalls would be, but I'm sure it's not hard to determine, but more than enough to compensate for no fees for the operators with boardwalks and it will sure keep BYLAW busy. Since the Council is going to approve the speed limit of 30 km in the community rather than 40 km, there should be no problems with traffic, just keep, the motorhomes and trailers out of town. **IT IS SOMETHING TO CONSIDER!**

Last but not least, I want to thank Mayor Ireland and Council for calling this meeting. These presentations should have been heard before decisions were made and please keep in mind that not all businesses belong to Tourism Jasper and/or Jasper Chamber of Commerce. Some operators have been around for a long time and are more than willing to contribute.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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