

The background image shows an outdoor cafe area with several tables and chairs. The tables are dark-colored with white tops, and the chairs are black with mesh backs. A white railing with vertical posts and horizontal bars runs across the foreground. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

City of Ames Sidewalk Café and Vending Code Workshop

Smart Choice

SIDEWALK CAFÉ BACKGROUND

- 2012: Request from CAA
 - Allow wait service at tables
 - Do not require barriers
 - However, if barriers required, ensure they are aesthetically pleasing
 - Allow alcoholic beverage service

SIDEWALK CAFÉ BACKGROUND (2)

- City staff proposed additional modifications to Code
- City Council discussions in November 2012, May 2014
- Consultation with CAA, MSCD during process

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – SITE



Standard Configuration (currently allowed)

Smart Choice

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – SITE (2)



Offset Configuration (proposed addition)

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – SITE (3)

- Proposed Revision: Attached or offset cafes allowed
 - Must maintain four-foot clear path for pedestrians
 - Use of parklets allowed for offset cafes
 - Must be reviewed for safety, stormwater
 - Must request use of metered parking space from City Council, arrange for payment

SIDEWALK CAFÉS - ACCESSORIES

- Proposed Revision: Accessory devices allowed
 - Air conditioners, fans permitted
 - Heaters permitted if approved by Fire Inspector
 - Noisemaking devices permitted if in compliance with Noise Ordinance

SIDEWALK CAFÉS - MATERIALS

- Proposed Revision: Furniture and delineators may not be made of plastic, plastic resin, or fabric.
 - Per CAA's request
 - Staff proposes exception to allow furniture made of HDPE, which is similar in durability to wood but does not rot (it is used to make some park benches)

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – TABLE SERVICE

- Proposed Revision: Table service is permitted
 - Tables must be bused promptly to keep waste materials from blowing away or being attractive to animals
 - Soiled tableware may not be kept in an outdoor busing station (consistent with current Code)

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – REVOC./DENIAL

- Proposed Revision: Appeals process for revocation or denial of a permit mirrors Vending License process
 - 20 days for licensee to appeal to City Council
 - License can be temporarily revoked for public safety purposes, failure to meet requirements of the Code, etc.

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – DELINEATION

- Proposed Revision: Barriers at least 42 inches in height to separate patrons from pedestrian area or street.
 - Acceptable materials: ropes, chains, planters, fencing, other sturdy materials
 - Barriers required in comparable communities
 - Important to contain sidewalk café and keep clear path of travel
 - Alcohol service – Must take place within a defined “premises”

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – ALCOHOL

- Proposed Revision: Alcohol permitted if safety requirements are met
 - City Council directed staff to work to make alcohol service a safe initial effort
 - Restrictions (only for sidewalk cafes where alcohol is served) include:
 - Allowing alcohol service only at “restaurants” as defined by the City’s 50/50 alcohol ordinance. Prohibits minors from being on the premises where 50% or more of the business’ sales are alcohol.
 - Prohibiting consumption of outside food and beverage

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – ALCOHOL (2)

- Limiting number of patrons allowed to the number of chairs or fire code limit, whichever less
 - Prohibiting alcohol service in sidewalk cafés after 10:00 p.m.
 - Requiring staff supervision of the sidewalk cafe
 - If at an “offset” sidewalk café, prohibiting patrons from loitering with alcohol between the business and the sidewalk cafe
- Intent is that alcohol service is incidental to the dining experience. Not intended to extend bars onto the sidewalk.

SIDEWALK CAFÉS – NEXT STEPS

- Sidewalk café season April 1 – October 31
 - Code revision will be presented to City Council

VENDING



Smart Choice

VENDING - BACKGROUND

- Vending Code revisions made by City Council in 2015
 - Prompted by complaints from the public
 - Changes include allowing for different types of vendors (carts, mobile vending vehicles, vendor persons)
 - Prohibited food trucks from regular vending (except mobile ice cream trucks)
 - Changes to appeals process

VENDING - BACKGROUND (2)

- Added requirement for permission of adjacent property owner
- Creation of administrative rules

VENDING – ADMIN. CHALLENGES

- Revision requires separate applications for vending cart, vendor person, sidewalk café, sidewalk sales, mobile vending vehicle, and newspaper dispenser
- Separate administrative rules requires prospective vendors to consult application, rules, and code.
 - These documents occasionally conflict; confusing for prospective vendors
- Revised code contains unclear language, explanations

VENDING - SITE SELECTION ISSUES

- No designated spots. Support of adjacent property owner required
 - Adjacent property owners have “veto” over any prospective vendor
 - Transfer of license is prohibited
- Other conflicts: saturation, street furniture, available ROW space
- Effect is poor customer service experience for prospective vendors
 - Must hunt for a space; frequently unsuccessful

VENDING - ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- Unclear who enforces violations of Vending Code
 - Clerk's Office, Inspections, Police Department
- One option may be to treat like liquor license renewals:
 - Collect information on violations, encourage responsiveness, and bring renewal report to City Council indicating whether problems have occurred.
Allows clearer expectations to be sent to licensees.

VENDING - TERM LENGTHS

- License term lengths vary:
 - Vending cart, sidewalk café, newspaper dispenser, mobile vending vehicle licenses last one year
 - Vendor person, sidewalk sales permits last five days
 - Interest from vendor persons in permits longer than five days

VENDING – FOOD TRUCKS

- Current code does not allow a vending truck, except mobile ice cream trucks
 - Staff's interpretation is food trucks are permitted at special events when streets are closed
- Food trucks becoming more popular at events and on private property

VENDING – FOOD TRUCKS (2)

- If Council believes food trucks should be allowed on streets during special events, Municipal Code should reflect that
- Council should note that existing Vending Code does not regulate food trucks on private property. These are regulated by the City only through land use and zoning.

VENDING – NEXT STEPS

- The issues identified here are from City staff's perspective. Staff would like to reach out to vendors for their issues and concerns
- Staff would report back to Council with a comprehensive list of issues and proposed options to address them