

Voss, Diane

PKTS. 7-16-21

From: Haila, John
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Abby Dubisar
Cc: City Council and Mayor; Voss, Diane
Subject: Re: tables downtown

Abby,

Thank you for writing. This will be presented to council for consideration as a possible referral to staff (they may or may not do so) at a meeting later this month.

Have you presented this option to the Ames Main Street organization? Council would look to them for input and opinions as a partner and collaborator for things that could possibly occur on Main Street. If you are not familiar with AMS they can be reached via the Ames Chamber Of Commerce.

Kindest regards,

John A.Haila, Mayor
City of Ames

From: Abby Dubisar <dubisar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 1:47 PM
To: City Council and Mayor
Subject: tables downtown

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Haila and members of the City Council,
I'd like the City of Ames to consider putting tables on the wide paved space on Main Street (in front of 134-200 Main St.), the area that used to have benches and large planters. Currently the space is open, with the HG Wells and Hemingway bike racks remaining. I write with this request because recently I was in Iowa City and I loved the way they are using this city block: <https://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/local/eastern-iowa/2021/04/12/north-linn-downtown-iowa-city-outdoor-seating-dining-covid-summer/7191662002/> Some folks were eating at the tables, including food from the farmers market as well as food from nearby restaurants. Other folks were simply gathering and meeting up. No one business or entity colonized the tables; they belonged to everyone. My immediate thought was "Ames needs this." I see this set-up as an alternative to closing a city block to car traffic, as Iowa City has done (even though I would be in favor of that). I understand that some business owners do not want to close a Main St block to car traffic, but we could still have a similar set-up on this Main St patio area where the benches have been removed (and elsewhere, probably). The tables could be like the ones found at Tom Evans plaza since it would be great to have shade. I think COVID has taught us that we need more outdoor gathering spaces. These tables could be useful downtown all the time, plus at the farmers market when there is very little seating where people can eat and talk. Often that seating (when placed in the middle of the roads where vendors line the block) can be awkward and disrupt the flow of pedestrians. Thank you for considering this idea.

Sincerely,
Abby M. Dubisar