



P.O. Box 396, Tecumseh, MI 49286 • www.mytecumseh.org

Social District Management and Maintenance Plan

Overview

In an effort to support local restaurants, microbreweries, bars, and similar food service businesses, the City of Tecumseh has established a permitting process for an outdoor social district and commons areas ("Commons Areas"). Commons Areas are intended to allow for outdoor dining and alcoholic beverage consumption on City and private properties that are adjacent to or near business establishments with existing liquor licenses or "Qualified Licensees." This Management and Maintenance Plan is designed to ensure compliance with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) guidelines and Public Act 58 of 1998 as amended by Public Act 124 of 2020.

The Social District and Commons Areas are proposed to be administered through the City's Building Department and authorization from the City and a permit from the MLCC are required prior to utilization by any Qualified Licensee(s). The City will require all Qualified Licensees wishing to utilize the Social District to provide a certificate of liability insurance, naming the City additionally insured, as a condition of granting its approval.

Intent

Originally created in response to the social distancing requirements necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis, the Social District and Commons Areas are intended to provide extra outdoor space for dining and consumption of alcoholic beverages in designated areas throughout the Central Business District. The areas will accommodate tables, chairs, barriers, boundaries, and accessory materials related to the offered services. Qualified Licensees, as defined by PA 124 of 2020, may apply to utilize the established Commons Areas:

1. City owned parking lots in the Central Business District.
2. The North and South Evans Street and South Ottawa Street road rights-of-way.
3. Public sidewalks adjacent to the parking lots and street rights-of-way.
4. Commercial building spaces, subject to the property owners expressed approval.
5. In accordance with the MLCC guidelines, all Commons Areas must be "contiguous to the premises of at least 2 qualified licensees."

It is also intended that Commons Areas may be shared by multiple businesses, so long as the shared use is defined by the City authorization and joint operation and maintenance guidelines are established.

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However, public spaces immediately in front of or behind a business establishment may be reserved solely for that business (exp. public sidewalks and parking spaces).

All designated spaces will be subject to review by Tecumseh Police and Fire Departments for traffic and safety considerations.

PLEASE NOTE: *To minimize the impacts to non-participating businesses, public parking lots and parking spaces will only be closed on dates authorized by the City which are established at least six weeks prior to the event date. The City can and will deny applications for use of the parking lots based on significant and unreasonable impacts to non-participating businesses.*

Other Options for Outdoor Dining and Alcoholic Beverage Consumption

The establishment of the Social District and Commons Areas in accordance with the new MLCC provisions in no way negates the ability of businesses to establish sidewalk cafes for outdoor dining and alcoholic beverage consumption in accordance with the pre-existing MLCC guidelines and City ordinances. The Commons Areas are intended to be supplemental and in addition to these previous provisions.

Signage and Barriers

The City will produce and display signage as required by the MLCC Rules that identify the general boundaries of the Commons Areas. The individual establishments may be required to provide additional barriers to define the portion(s) of the Commons Areas they plan to utilize and provide for the safety of their customers/patrons. Additional barriers or barricades as specified by the City will typically be required when the area utilized is within a public parking lot and/or on a public street or sidewalk. The City will assist in coordination between the permitted establishments to minimize the necessary investment in additional barriers/barricades.

General Open Hours and Authorized Activities

The Social District shall be open for general use by the Qualified Licensees that have received Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) approval, Sunday through Thursday, from 10:00 AM until 8:00 PM and Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM until 10:00 PM. Other than the initial approval from the City, as required by the MLCC, no further authorization from the City will be required for the general open hours and authorized activities.

Note: The City will conduct a preliminary review prior to the applicant submitting their MLCC application in order to determine if the proposed use of the Commons Area is acceptable to the City.

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Any events or activities wishing to utilize the Social District that will take place outside of the general open hours (10:00 AM – 8:00 PM or 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM), involve any closure or restricted use of public (City) property, or that are not sponsored by a Qualified Licensee(s), shall require submittal of a Social District permit as described below.

Application Process to Extend Open Hours or Expand Authorized Activities

Social District Permits must be requested by the business owner or an authorized representative. Applications and supplemental information must be provided in complete form for review and approval by the Building Official.

Required checklist items are the following:

1. Completed City of Tecumseh Social District application form.
2. Copy of Michigan Liquor Control Commission Permit(s) from the participating Qualified Licensee(s).
3. Commons Area use plan (drawn to-scale with dimensions noted and all information in legible form).
 - a. Approximate Lot lines, portion(s) of Commons Area intended for use, and proposed barriers/barricades.
 - b. Existing entries/exits, sidewalks, structures, and building footprints.
 - c. Proposed location of tables, chairs, tents, shelters, and other fixtures. *Note: The City may require the removal or relocation of these furnishings and fixtures at the end of each business day in order to facilitate access to the surrounding properties.*
 - d. Outdoor service and host area(s) (if any).
 - e. Estimated attendance.

General Requirements

Commons Areas are subject to the following requirements:

1. Boundaries, structures, and materials associated with Commons Areas shall:
 - a. Not impede drivers, pedestrians, or wheelchair users. *Note: The City will consider the extended closure of sections of public parking lots and streets, subject to maintaining adequate access to the surrounding properties.*
 - b. Not block sight visibility of remaining parking lot aisles or intersections.
 - c. Not impede emergency vehicle and personnel access.
 - d. Not block all access points to nearby businesses or homes.
 - e. Be approved by City of Tecumseh Police and/or Fire Departments.

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2. Alcohol service shall conform to all Michigan Liquor Control Commission requirements, including any Social District and Commons Areas Permit requirements. Specifically:
 - a. The serving container must prominently display the licensee's trade name or logo or some other mark that is unique to the licensee that sold the alcohol.
 - b. The serving container must prominently display a logo or some other mark that is unique to the Social District.
 - c. The serving container is not made of glass.
 - d. The serving container does not have a liquid capacity over 16 ounces.
3. **Hours of operation in the Commons Areas shall begin no earlier than 10:00 AM and beverage service shall discontinue no later than 11:00 PM.** However, hours may be further restricted when adjacent to residential land uses. Service shall not extend beyond the range established in the MLCC or City permits.
4. Any service later than 8:00 PM, Sunday through Thursday, or later than 10:00 PM, Friday and Saturday, shall conform to the specified hours of operation in a City-issued Social District permit.
5. The layout of boundaries, structures, and materials shall conform to the proposed outdoor Commons Area layout plan during open hours. Tables, chairs, and temporary barriers may be permitted to remain outdoors during closed hours but must be secured. Service items, decorations, cleaning materials and equipment and other easily stored items must be removed from the area at the end of each business day. Solid barriers, if incorporated, may remain for the duration of the permitted timeframe.
6. Sites and surfaces shall be cleaned before service hours and upon close.
7. Tents and other temporary shelter structures shall be approved by the City Building Official.
8. Amplified music shall be set at reasonable levels so as not to disturb owners and occupants of neighboring properties.
9. Temporary lighting may need to be established to ensure safe conditions during evening hours but shall not result in excessive glare onto adjacent properties.
10. Waste receptacles shall be provided within the Commons Area and shall be emptied regularly during open hours and at close each day.
11. Heaters must be approved by the Fire Department (type and location).

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Review and Approval

The review of the Social District permits will occur in conjunction with the Developmental Services Office and Police Department and Fire Departments. The City reserves the right to request additional details and information to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

If requirements and standards are met, the proposed outdoor Social District will be permitted for the extended period of time and/or expanded authorized activities as specified by the City Building Official. Reasonable conditions may be applied by the City to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Plan amendments may be considered at any time but must comply with all State and City requirements for Social Districts.