



City of Ontario
Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee
July 25, 2018
Minutes
Ontario City Hall 5:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Steve Meland: 5:03 pm

Roll Call: Brad Bartolome Jahmel Cooke, Flora Gibbs, John Kirby, Steve Meland, Andy Peterson, Alfredo Rodriguez.

Staff: Cal Kunz, Chief of Police; Dan Cummings, Community & Economic Development Director

- o Approval of July Minutes; minutes not available.
- o Public comments opened; No comments.
- o Adam provided analysis sheet; Sheets were provided to members. Members reviewed sheet.

PARKING

John Kirby: Ordinance in place for businesses already. He suggests parking should be more in line with a restaurant.

Steve Meland: He assumes people will be waiting and will need retail parking. Dan Cummings said 1 spot per 300 square feet.

John Kirby: What is an estimate of how big the spaces would be? He is concerned that employees would take up the spots.

Steve Meland: His guess is 2500-3000 square feet. He concurs as these businesses are busier than most retail and additional parking spaces may be needed.

Brad Bartolome: They should eliminate certain spaces from the overall square footage when calculating such as break rooms, safes, etc.

Flora Gibbs: Suggests employees park in back or on side of businesses.

Steve Meland: Typically the zoning would count rear spots for retail spots. They could designate for customers and/or employees.

Brad Bartolome: Asked how John's business works with the large space.



John Kirby: Unsure of the formula but he knows there is one in place. His business in 20,000 square feet with roughly 35 spaces with 3 retail spaces included.

Steve Meland: The formula may have changed along the way.

Brad Bartolome: Asked if we could get the audience/public opinion regarding parking. Steve said that would be fine.

[Four audience members offered opinions regarding parking to the committee.]

Steve Meland: Asked if anyone has any research they would like to bring forward.

John Kirby: No, other than current codes and city guidelines.

Steve Meland: There are multiple retail businesses operating now that are much over 300 square feet and are making it work.

Flora Gibbs: When she first opened they asked how many clientele she thought would be coming to their store. They were lucky enough to have employee parking in the back.

Steve Meland: Suggested we could note that there is a current concern yet current policies are in place. Businesses can self- police parking/employees,

MESSAGING

Steve: State doesn't currently restrict advertising. Leaves it to organizations but asks for disclaimers due to minors/community impact.

Brad Bartolome Motioned to table messaging and move to enforcement in K12 and issues with kids eatables. He suggested discussing the last three with Dr. Peterson here. [No second]

John Kirby: He believes we can resolve messaging quickly due to previous discussions the committee had.

Steve Meland: Discussed ability/laws regarding advertising/billboards.

John Kirby: The city has no control over advertising other than city codes associated with them.

Steve Meland: He suggests prohibiting billboard advertising in city limits.

John Kirby: If looking at advertising, he doesn't know laws for radio, TV, etc., but assumes there are federal restrictions.



John Kirby: Motion to suggest to Council to prohibit billboard advertising in city. Brad Bartolome second.

Vote: Yes- 6 (unanimous) No- 0 6-0 Passes

MEDICAL GROWS

John: Unregulated medical grows are retailers competition. He believes they should register with state. If there are house grows they end up with 250+ plants it causes a black market. People trying to follow laws businesses are impacted. Ruins houses/neighborhoods.

Steve: Medical grows can only have 14 plants but concurs there are illegal growers. Currently, as Adam explained, the city doesn't have an oversight of those grows; the state has to come in. If the city had some fee/oversight maybe they could check on the grows.

John: Asked if medical grows go through the OLCC or Oregon Health Authority.

Steve: Oregon Health Authority (OHA.)The police would likely have to go through OHA to request information on grows.

Flora: If someone else is growing for you, you have to give information to OHA.

Steve: If they were required to get city license they would have to give information to the city.

John: Inquired about how many plants could be per parcel

Steve: 14 plants per parcel; discussed looking at additional ordinance enforcing violating non-licensed growing.

[Discussion by committee members regarding ability for city to require business licenses and well as the state requirements and the city's ability to enforce.]

John: Suggests considering a business license to medical growers at nominal fee to allow law enforcement to know where legal grows are.

[Public comment approved by Steve. A citizen said there is a degree of paranoia and people may be worried if on a list that criminals may know where they are.]

Steve: Agrees; thought it was a good point. Would have to look into whether it would be public record or not.

Brad Bartolome motioned to suggest city business registration for med grows within city. John Kirby seconded.



Vote : Yes-5 No- 1 (Flora) 5-1 Passes

GROW HOMES NOT MAINTAINED

Steve: City has current codes.

ENFORCEMENT K12/INFO HARM TO KIDS/ISSUES WITH EATABLES & KIDS

Andy Bartolome: He brought these items up but doesn't know if this committee would have input on these items. He is concerned nothing is happening on these items but they may have to be address more at a State/Federal level. Current school programs on marijuana are lacking. He said children use will go up with more mental illness, more kids in ER like studies from other states show.

Alfredo Rodriguez: Knows there was a spike at first but not increased overall.

[General discussion by committee members regarding this issue.]

Steve Meland: Open to suggestions on education.

[Steve Meland allowed public comment. Citizen said he believes the state is working on it and doing a good job but we need to educate parents.]

[Continued discussion by committee members regarding need for education.]

Steve Meland: He believes everyone one on the committee would agree to recommend to the council some form of parent/ child education.

Alfredo Rodriguez: Need to focus on parents.

[General discussion about the process of purchasing marijuana from a retailer by committee members.]

Steve Meland: Asked for a recommendation for the council on education.

Flora Gibbs: Suggested free education for parents/children in a public environment.

Andy Peterson: Asked if there was any information from the state that could be distributed.

Steve Meland: Yes, he has some education information from the state he can email everyone.

Andy Peterson: In western Oregon, is there information like alcohol/tobacco for the general public?

Steve Meland: Yes, they would have to visit a retail store or go to website for those not wanting to go to those establishments.



Alfredo Rodriguez: It needs to be impactful and scary to impact kids. Such as “the tobacco truth campaign.” It is best to direct towards parents. You can pump fear into parents that they are the ones that need to be responsible.

Steve Meland: We can distribute state literature but larger campaigns would be more productive.

John Kirby: He is worried people don’t know the potency is much greater today and effects.

[General discussion regarding amounts of THC concentration in marijuana products and regulation of those amounts by committee members.]

John Kirby: Mentioned discussing issues from zoning we tabled last time.

[Discussion by committee members regarding issues of business causing problems.]

Flora Gibbs: It may be smart to not get saturation here and have problems among businesses.

John Kirby: As far as citizens are concerned it is the distances from schools and residential; saturation is a problem for the businesses themselves.

[Public comment allowed by Steve.]

[Committee members general discussion regarding limiting concentration.]

Steve Meland: 1000’ is industry standard.

John Kirby: Standard blocks would equal 3 blocks per 1000’.

Steve Meland: It has worked well in Huntington at 1000’. If left at 1000’ he estimates 5-7 dispensaries in the city.

Flora Gibbs: Limiting amounts and lessening saturation will help with the concern of people going to multiple dispensaries per day.

John Kirby: Sees Flora’s point; he is not sure on distance.

Steve Meland: Asked if everyone feels there is a limit on numbers of dispensaries the group could come to.

[400’ restricted around residential area map displayed; general committee member discussion.]

Steve Meland: Asked if committee wanted the attorney’s advice on buffer distance?

Flora Gibbs motioned to recommend to the council some buffer distance from retail to retail (undetermined distance at this point.) Andy Peterson second.



Vote: Yes- 6 No - 0 6 - 0 Passes

Flora Gibbs motioned to recommend to the council 1000' buffer retail to parks/recreation. Brad Bartolome second.

Vote: Yes - 6 No - 0 6 - 0 Passes

Andy Peterson motioned to recommend to council to have no buffer from retail to church/daycare/etc. Alfredo Rodriguez second.

Vote: Yes - 6 No - 0 6 - 0 Passes

Andy Peterson motioned to recommend to council to increase residential to 500' buffer from retail. John Kirby second.

Vote: Yes - 4 No - 2 (Brad & Steve) 4 - 2 Passes

[General parking concerns questions to Dan Cummings from committee. Discussion to possibly use doctor's offices as guide.]

Flora Gibbs motioned to table parking until we get more information. Brad Bartolome second.

Vote: Yes-6 No-0 6-0 Passes

Flora Gibbs motioned to table zoning by license type. Alfredo Rodreguez second.

Vote: Yes-6 No-0 6-0 Passes

- **Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 1 at 5pm at Ontario City Hall**

Flora Gibbs motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brad Bartolome second.

Vote: Yes-6 No-0 6-0 Passes

- Meeting adjourned 7:20 PM