

Clayton City Council Meeting | Public Comment on Tuesday, 1 September 2009 | Ted Meriam

Agenda Item 8e: Discuss & set policy regarding the commencement & ending times for public consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Grove Park on Concert days, and consideration of a time limitation for the public's placement of chairs and blankets.

Introductory Remarks

- Ted Meriam, Oak Street.
- Thank you Council and Medrano for addressing this policy issue.
- With the increasing popularity of the Concert in the Grove, the public needs clarity around the parameters of the event.
- As a downtown resident, I often pass through the Grove at various times of day and night, and witness firsthand the on-goings at the Park.
- I agree that the Council should establish formal policies around this event, which are then widely advertised to attendees. In my role as the Chairman of the CBCA's Art & Wine, I would encourage the planners of Concerts in the Grove to provide insights into the requirement that the Alcohol Use Permit dictates. We do this with the Art & Wine and this education would be greatly helpful to the public.

Revitalizing Downtown Clayton

- I also looked at this agenda idea from my role as a City Planning Commissioner. The City Council should set policies that support the downtown business district by attracting and keeping people downtown.
- Policies should support the work of the Planning Commission, as we move forward with the Downtown Specific Plan and downtown retail recruitment, by creating an environment in which people can congregate. If you force people out of the Park, there's no guarantee that they will simply walk across the street to a local business – they may simply just leave downtown.
- As the Concerts in the Grove are located in the heart of our commercial district, I would encourage the Council to set policy that allows people to remain in the Grove as long as reasonable during the summer months.

Fiscal Impact

- The report notes the potential additional police and staff time and compensation that may be required if the event runs longer or if the City is required to monitor public reservations of concert spots.
- While it would be easier to make well-informed decisions if an approximate cost was provided in the report, there are opportunities for additional revenue sources – like corporate sponsorships – that could not only help defray the increased costs of police & staff time, but also fund the overall concert series.
- The CBCA is fortunate to have several business connections that lower our event costs and increase revenue, so I'd encourage the City to consider these partnerships as well.