

Meeting House is requesting an extension of business hours as well as a Restaurant Beer and Wine license. Opening in the time of Covid-19 has been incredibly challenging and as a result, we have considered our current offering and believe it makes sense for us to offer more to the area.

We would like to extend our hours, which are currently from 7am - 5pm, to 7am - 10pm. With this extension of our hours, we would be able to expand both our lunch and dinner menu, which makes sense for us to do in order to maintain a healthy business. In order to expand our lunch and dinner menus successfully, we believe that it is essential to be able to offer our customers a limited selection of beer and wine. Not only do we believe that this would help our business, but we have received a multitude of feedback from customers and neighbors requesting longer hours as well as adding the option of beer or wine in the afternoons/evenings.

Requesting to be open until 10pm is within the city's noise ordinance and therefore a reasonable request. We do realize that there can be concerns around the subject of alcohol. We want to address these and assure everyone that our intent is to serve beer and wine only, no spirits or liquor of any kind. Our menu would include local beers and wines as well as beer radlers and wine spritzers, which lower the alcohol content of the beverage. Staff would, of course, be required and trained to ID anyone purchasing alcohol as well as have alcohol serving permits. In addition to this, we would like to comment that a large percentage of our customers are pedestrians. This eliminates much of the concern about possible drunk driving.

Furthermore, we would like to address some of the concerns from our original hearing.

1. The fears of parking on the street have not manifested themselves. There have been no complaints that we are aware of. Instead, the neighbors used the coffee shop as intended by SMC 17C.370, a gathering place. Neighbors are excited and happy to have a new business within walking distance.

2. The statements made at the hearing were business practices put in place to test the waters with the new SMC. Having proven successful, it is okay to rethink the business model and expand offerings to include alcohol and stay open later.

3. The Grain Shed, located at 1026 E Newark, used SMC 17C.370 to reopen a previous business as well. They are located in the Perry Street neighborhood as well and have no restriction on hours or alcohol sales and are a successful and beloved business. There have not been any negative impacts, only positive reuse of a building, but without the restrictions. Both our property and the Grain Shed have been open for over 12 months and have seen no negative impacts. We think this is an argument to loosen the restrictions.

4. Since the start of this pandemic, many businesses have struggled, and some have failed. By allowing longer operating hours and the sale of alcohol we will be able to not only re-hire our employees but hire additional staff. The city needs to be doing everything possible at this moment to employ more people.

Thank you for your time,
Elisabeth Krahn
Meeting House