

Linda Neal

From: Brian Kelly <bpkelly@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: Permanent Outdoor eating-The Lodge

To whom this concerns,

The Lodge has created a community friendly establishment in an underserved area of East Fairfax & West San Anselmo. An area distant from the downtowns of either city. Residents of this part of the Ross Valley finally have a place they can easily get to via foot or bike, reducing car trips in this part of the Ross Valley. It also happens to be family friendly, allowing for easy trips by bike or foot for the whole family - even families with infants or babies in strollers. Allowing outdoor dining at The Lodge will be a net positive

Brian Kelly
415 987-0188

Linda Neal

From: Whitney Ball <whitneyball96@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: Support of use Permit 20-5, agenda item no 1

Hello,

I am writing to encourage the planning commission to approve Use Permit Application 20-5 meeting for outdoor dining at The Lodge.

I watched first hand as the Bruckner's worked tirelessly to restore and preserve this historic building in our community. As soon as the doors to The Lodge finally opened for business it quickly became a gathering place for many of us in both San Anselmo and Fairfax. The indoor space is very limiting and if this permit were approved many of us could continue enjoying our time outside at The Lodge.

The Lodge is a terrific family friendly spot that many of us walk and ride our bikes to. Allowing the ongoing outdoor dining at The Lodge would be a wonderful addition to our community as there are so few options available. Additionally, when school starts this would create another wonderful meeting place for our young students to eat their lunches quickly so they can get back to class.

The staff at The Lodge has given back so much to our community during COVID. They prepared hundreds of meals for healthcare workers and homebound residents in Marin and is a business partner with both YES, as well as LEAP in the San Geronimo Valley. The approval of this permit will enable the Bruckners to keep their small business going. At a time like this and as we enter the unknown future the commission should be doing everything they can to create opportunities to support it's small business owners and highly regarded members of our community any way possible.

Thank you,
Whitney Ball

Linda Neal

From: Tim Swan <timkswan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: Support of user permit 20-5, agenda item no. 1

Hello -

We'd like to encourage the planning commission to approve Use Permit application 20-5, Agenda Item no. 1 at the 6/18 Planning commission meeting, for outdoor dining at The Lodge. There are many reasons to support this request.

- We are fortunate to live in a spectacular area with great weather and natural beauty. It seems only obvious we should be encouraging the utilization of all efforts to move dining outside so we can enjoy the tremendous environment we get to call home.

- COVID 19 is not going away and a vaccine seems uncertain with regard to any type of firm timeline. Making the temporary use permits allowing outdoor dining on private property permanent seems only logical moving forward.

- The Lodge has created a community friendly establishment in an underserved area of East Fairfax & West San Anselmo. An area distant from the downtowns of either city. Residents of this part of the Ross Valley finally have a place they can easily get to via foot or bike, reducing car trips in this part of the Ross Valley. It also happens to be family friendly, allowing for easy trips by bike or foot for the whole family - even families with infants or babies in strollers. Allowing outdoor dining at The Lodge will be a net positive for neighbors and customers nearby.

- The Bruckner's restored and preserved this historic building in our town, but inside capacity is very limited - approving this use permit would allow more customers to enjoy The Lodge while still keeping overall capacity modest.

- With regard to the historic nature of the property - it was one of the first commercial properties in Fairfax, opened in 1908 as The Ol' Timers Saloon. Historically, the Segale / Arbin families used the outdoor portion of the property as much as the interior, planting fruit trees, dining outside, and even building a bocci ball court, which was used extensively throughout the 20th century. It only seems right that the property should be able to be utilized in its historic sense.

- This use permit is consistent with use permits granted to other businesses in the Commercial Highway Zone for outdoor dining (Iron Springs, Good Earth, etc.) , it only seems fair The Lodge should be given the same accommodations.

- The Lodge has been a responsible, positive addition to the community and has given back to the community. The Lodge prepared hundreds of meals for healthcare workers and homebound residents in Marin during the Pandemic, and is a business partner with both YES, as well as LEAP in the San Geronimo Valley. The business has also provided a wonderful meeting space for community organizations: high school and rec sports teams, various clubs, school fund raising committees, etc.

- Any opposition to this application based on noise or nuisance are unfounded. The Lodge is bordered by a car wash on the west, whose pressure washers and vacuums drown out any conversational noise from The Lodge. Furthermore, SFDB borders The Lodge to the North, further drowning out any noise. All of the neighbors sharing a property line with The Lodge support this application, and even the neighbors directly across the street support the application.

Tim Swan
[415.717.8636](tel:415.717.8636) (c)

Linda Neal

From: Vince Genovese <vgenovese4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:50 AM
To: Linda Neal
Cc: tnewberg2000@yahoo.com
Subject: Support of user permit 20-5, agenda item no. 1

To Whom it may concern

I'd like to share my support for The Lodge and their request to continue outdoor seating and patio area.

I've lived in San Anselmo for 18 years and currently own a home less than 1/4 from The Lodge. While it's convenient to walk or ride my bike with my family to Lodge, it provides more than a destination for food or drink. It's a community hub. A gathering place for family, friends, locals and visitors alike to meet for lunch, a drink, or meet up for a Mt Bike ride.

The temp patio extension has been very well received and is a much needed addition which locals and area residents / visitors have come to appreciate during this Covid-19 environment. The natural outdoor seating is a great way to enjoy the beauty of Fairfax and San Anselmo, in a low impact way that is away from SFD, and close to traffic. Not to mention allowing for more safe social gathering while providing service and sharing community.

The Lodge and its clientele are mature and respectful people, as such value and respect their neighbors. Thus mitigating any fear of noise disruption for those in close proximity to either the main building or proposed outside seating area.

I hope you will support this proposal and approve the permit, so we can continue to enjoy endless Summer evenings, early morning coffee, and late afternoon gatherings at our family friendly local Lodge.

Best, Vince & Tracy Genovese

Vince Genovese / Sr. Content **Producer**

Linda Neal

From: Tom Raith <tomraith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: THE LODGE: Support for permanent outdoor dining

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to encourage the Planning Commission to approve Use Permit application 20-5, Agenda Item no. 1 at the 6/18 Planning commission meeting, for outdoor dining at The Lodge.

There are many reasons to support this request. In the spirit of brevity, I won't enumerate them here. But please know the neighborhood would benefit.

Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,
Tom Raith

32 Valley Road
San Anselmo

Linda Neal

From: chris gerner <tegmarin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: Support of user permit 20-5, agenda item no.1

Hello,

I have been a Sleepy Hollow resident since 2001. I have always loved the building and the location that is now The Lodge and I was very excited when it became a restaurant and community gathering place.

I fully support outdoor dining becoming permanent at The Lodge. Our community is perfect for this and it is in short supply.

I hope that Fairfax and San Anselmo will allow and promote outdoor seating at all cafe's and restaurants.

Stay well,

Chris Gerner

c: (415) 307-4890

h: (415) 454-2274

tegmarin@yahoo.com

Linda Neal

From: Mark Woltering <mrwoltering@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: Support of Use Permit 20-5, Agenda Item 1

The Lodge: Fairfax, CA
Outdoor Use Permit 20-5

As former 20+ year Fairfax residents we still frequently visit Fairfax and patrons of the The Lodge restaurant.

I would like to encourage the planning commission to approve Use Permit application 20-5, Agenda Item no. 1 at the 6/18 Planning commission meeting, for outdoor dining at The Lodge. There are many reasons to support this request.

-We encourage the utilization of all efforts to move dining outside so we can enjoy the beauty of the Fairfax/Marin County area.

- COVID 19 is not going away and outdoor dining provides the lowest level of risk of contracting the virus.

- The Bruckner's restored and preserved this historic building in our town, but inside capacity is very limiting - approving this use permit would allow more customers to enjoy The Lodge while still keeping overall capacity modest.

- With regard to the historic nature of the property - it was one of the first commercial properties in Fairfax, opened in 1908 as The Ol' Timers Saloon. Historically, the Segale / Arbini families used the outdoor portion of the property as much as the interior, planting fruit trees, dining outside, and even building a bocci ball court, which was used extensively throughout the 20th century. It only seems right that the property should be able to be utilized in its historic sense.

- This use permit is consistent with use permits granted to other businesses in the Commercial Highway Zone for outdoor dining (Iron Springs, Good Earth, etc.) , it only seems fair The Lodge should be given the same accommodations.

- Any opposition to this application based on noise or nuisance are unfounded. The Lodge is bordered by a car wash on the west, whose pressure washers and vacuums drown out any conversational noise from The Lodge. Furthermore, SFDB borders The Lodge to the North, further drowning out any noise. All of the neighbors sharing a property line with The Lodge support this application, and even the neighbors directly across the street support the application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Woltering
1030 Natwick Way
Brentwood, CA 94513

Linda Neal

From: Gina Feiner <ginafeiner@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: Approve outdoor seating at The Lodge

Dear Fairfax Town Council,

It has come to my attention that this Thursday 6.19, at your Town Council meeting, agenda item 1 concerns granting a permanent permit for The Lodge to have outdoor seating/service.

I am writing in full support of granting this permit.

The Lodge is a wonderful community gathering place. the clientele is respectful and predominately live in our community. This is a responsible establishment that will adhere to any issues that arise, and I sincerely hope you grant them this permanent permit.

Gina Feiner
40 Legend Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960
415-999-7629

Linda Neal

From: Lindsay Coss <lindsay.coss@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Linda Neal
Cc: Lindsay Coss; Ross Burmahl
Subject: Support of use permit 20-5, agenda item no. 1

Dear Fairfax Planning Commission,

My husband and I are writing in support of Lori and Brian Bruckner's application for a use permit for outdoor seating adjacent to their small restaurant, The Lodge, which is within 300 feet of our home. We have been customers since they opened and are excited for the potential of a more permanent outdoor seating area that is walkable from our house and allows us to bring our small dog and enjoy the outdoors. After growing up in San Anselmo/ Fairfax, we returned and purchased our home several years ago and one of the best parts of this neighborhood is walkability to shops and restaurants. We have always found the patrons of The Lodge to be courteous/ family friendly and many who come by live in nearby neighborhoods or stop in after a hike or bike ride. We have never noticed large crowds and the parking lot is rarely full suggesting that many arrive on foot/ bike as we do. In the fall during the power outages, Lori and Brian went above and beyond during another tough time to provide coffee and food to their customers. We recently enjoyed a quick breakfast outside this past Sunday and hope we have the opportunity to do so for many Sundays to come. This stretch of SFD has long been primarily zoned commercial and The Lodge is a special gathering spot for nearby neighbors in Fairfax and San Anselmo- it has been a wonderful addition. I cannot imagine any additional noise that would be of any material impact given the traffic noise that inherently exists on Sir Francis Drake Blvd already.

In closing, It is imperative that we do everything we can to support small businesses and restaurants during this time and (equally important) beyond as a shift in consumer behavior will last long after a temporary permit expires. The Lodge has had the challenge of not being in the main downtown Fairfax district and as such the Town of Fairfax should take all reasonable measures to ensure our small businesses (especially restaurants) can succeed and benefit our community long term. We are rooting for the success of The Lodge and see it as a no brainer for the planning commission to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Coss & Ross Burmahl - Owners and Residents of 4 Bennit Avenue (direct neighbors of The Lodge)

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Lindsay A. Coss
E-mail: lindsay.coss@gmail.com
Cell Phone: (415) 686-0629

Linda Neal

From: scott tithof <tithofscott@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Linda Neal
Subject: The Lodge

Linda,

I am a Fairfax resident who lives on Belle Avenue (a block behind The Lodge Bar and Grille). I am writing to show my support of this business and their ability to continue to take advantage of the back parking lot area, past the October 3 COVID temporary permit. The area is ideal for community to gather and with the establishment not being open past 10 any night, the noise burden posed to neighbors is negligible. As other community establishments have fallen victim to COVID 19, please work with the owners of The Lodge to keep a great thing alive!

Scott Tithof
60 Belle Avenue