

Item 24-1299: Proposed Update to City of Appleton Municipal Code 7-100 (d): Smoking Prohibition Around Valley Transit Center and Appleton Public Library

Board of Health

Wed, Oct 09, 2024 7:00AM

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 01:42

Action Item 24-1299 proposed update to the city of Appleton Municipal Code 7-100 smoking prohibition around the Valley Transit Center and the Appleton Public Library. Can I have a motion to approve, to get it on the table?

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 01:57

Motion to approve.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 01:58

Wolff. And is there a second?

Lee Vogel (Board Member) 02:00

Second.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 02:00

Second by Lee Vogel. Okay. Dr Sepers.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 02:04

Thank you, Chair. I'll just go ahead and start by a quick summary of the existing ordinance. So currently, the library block, which I believe is listed in subsection three of the mentioned ordinance section includes that entire block. So, all of all of the Transit Center block is currently deemed a smoking prohibited area. Currently on the library block, there is a carve out for a path that extends from the north Washington Street sidewalk all the way to the front door. As folks may know, there's been some work being done over there at the library, a small project that may have affected that path.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 03:03

At the request of library staff, we took a look at that, and we are proposing—staff are proposing to include that block with the Transit Center block and combine that smoking—that no smoking area. One of the reasons for this is the fact that there will be a considerable a considerable amount of child programming that'll be taking place in the in the new structures around in the outdoor space. So, to simplify what that might look like, rather than waiting for the, you know, exactly where each path and sidewalk within that parking lot might be laid. We took the approach to include that that entire block. So that's the simple version of what this change is.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 03:58

And Dr. Sepers, the ramp is already a nonsmoking. Are the sidewalks around the ramp nonsmoking?

Health Officer Charles Sepers 04:05

The sidewalks around the ramp are not. So, for example, the North Washington Street sidewalk in front of the yellow ramp, that is not a prohibited area and is a common area where folks go to smoke that are waiting for the transit—the Valley Transit buses. So that becomes a sort of a de facto smoking area, you know, because of the current smoking ban on the Transit Center block.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 04:40

Well, I just have a concern about that, because if I read the ordinance correctly, they—at the time we crafted it, they had to be 25 feet from any entrance. So, is there an area—I'm just concerned because, you know, with—is that something we want to include in on it, and make it that if you're going to smoke, you're going to have to be on—25 feet away, and not at the entrance of the ramp?

Health Officer Charles Sepers 05:09

Yeah. And so, I think this—I think currently, that quarter is in compliance with, with that 25 feet as the entrance is actually on—if we can, if we can look, there's a crosswalk—

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 05:24

Right.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 05:25

—on this non-marked street that's the transit center driveway. That is 25 feet away from that corner that folks tend to tend to smoke at. So, folks smoking at that corner are in compliance with the with the current ordinance.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 05:42

Okay, I'll open it up. That one my questions; are there any others? Alderperson Wolff.

Alderperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 05:52

Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I think this is a good plan. I think that that's beneficial for the kids that will be out there. And I do think if we extended it, we might be having more people in non-compliance. So, I think that having that area there for them is good.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 06:16

Okay, any other comments? All right, all in favor, say, aye. Aye. All opposed? Abstentions? Passes unanimously.