

Item 25-0491: Approve change to park rules to prohibit alcohol beverages within 20' of any pavilion or playground

Common Council

Wed, May 21, 2025 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:29:00

We have one other item in the order of the day, and that comes to us from the Parks and Recreation Committee. This is item 25-0491, approve change to park rules to prohibit alcohol beverages within 20 feet of any pavilion or playground. We have a motion and a second to approve. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 1:29:30

Thank you, Chair. I support this item as amended, and would like my colleagues to do the same. But I would like to address what I think is some confusion within the public. There's been a lot of questions subsequent to an article in the Post Crescent and some other articles that have shown up online about, you know, from some of our local press that is very—in the very fine print, it's noted that this excludes—this prohibition—excludes folks that rent the facilities or have a special event permit. So again, just trying to clear that up for the general public. I believe that my colleagues probably have all watched the meeting or took part in that meeting, so they know that, but I wanted to make that clear. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:30:17

Alder Wolff.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 1:30:21

Thank you, Chair. I was going to say the same thing. Yeah, if we could just maybe communicate that with our public as that's become a growing concern, that would be great. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:30:34

Alder Heffernan.

Aldersperson Patti Heffernan (District 8) 1:30:36

Well now I have more questions. So, am I to understand that the eliminating of the alcohol permit specifically is then going to be replaced by a permit for the pavilion or the facility in order to drink?

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:30:54

In essence, the permit that was previously available would go away. It was impractical from the standpoint of administration and policing but also ineffective in meeting the issues that persistently arise in the parks. So, this this approach seeks to replace that that former plan with alcohol permits available to individuals. And as Alder Hartzheim and Alder Wolff mentioned, the new policy would still allow for the consumption of alcohol within pavilions so long as there's a registered event occurring at the pavilion.

Aldersperson Patti Heffernan (District 8) 1:31:39

Okay, thank you. That clears up all my questions. I am also in favor of this.

Mayor Jake Woodford 1:31:45

Any further discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Alder Schultz, thank you. Motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.