

SEP 08 2023

Planning & Building Services

To the Mendocino Historical Review Board,

Please vote in support of action item 9a. CASE#: MHRB_2020-0012

I am writing in support of Patterson's Pub and all the other restaurants that have tents to accommodate the public and thus are able to keep their doors open.

Whether Mendocino County currently has a Public Health Order that restricts or limits indoor dining in place or not, please allow the 2 year extension for Patterson's Pub and all the other local restaurants that have tents.

I support the letters by Tony Graham, Jeanie Dobbins, Teddy Winslow, Cynthia Gair, Randy Mendosa, Norma Lee Andres, and Mary Ann Waters.

I agree with Tony Graham that anonymous letters should not be accepted. How many Mendocino Town Residents have seen and approved this letter? Why can they not sign the letter if they are not in favor of the tents? The people who for some reason or another are not in support of the tents are not forced to eat in a tent. If they do not like the fact that these white tents over time change color they do not need to look at them.

I have lived along the Mendocino Coast for 45 years. I never understood why there were hardly any restaurants that allowed outdoor seating. The climate here is conducive to that. In most European towns people gather outside of cafes and restaurants.

The way many towns In the US arrange their streets is in a grid system whereby A, B, C streets meet up with 1,2, 3 streets and there are no town squares where people can gather.

Thanks to Covid we realized that it is actually much more pleasant to eat outside rather than inside in a crowded restaurant. The local restaurants that have set up tents have created a great atmosphere with plants all around, or other pleasant decorations. Many have included heating lamps so it is possible to eat in the tents even when it is evening, or the fog moves in. In addition we allow people who's system is immunocompromised to be able to enjoy a meal as well. Many people worry about Covid and that relieves some of these worries. People with children are more at ease as these settings create a more relaxed atmosphere. Also people with dogs and their dogs feel more at ease in such settings.

Nowadays people spend most of their time inside. Many spend the majority of their time dealing with cell phones, computers, zoom meetings, etc. Even toddlers are already addicted to this technology that is very dangerous. Being in a tent and feeling the fresh air makes us feel good and reminds us that we lack connection to nature. It is high time to connect again with nature.

Our economy has become a tourist economy. Many tourists have enjoyed the opportunity to dine in a tent. It is hard enough for many restaurant workers to find housing and feed their families with their salaries. It is important that these workers can keep their jobs.

Mendocino especially has a hard time with water. Having a tent does not double the amount of guests (or double the amount of water usage) as these businesses can only accommodate a certain amount of guests. People get to choose. There are people who prefer to eat inside, others not. The same goes for the septic system. Its use is not doubled. I believe that the tents improve the visual/aesthetic environment in this historic district and are compatible with the historic district. We have allowed

prefab houses, houses with more vibrant colors, water storage tanks, and solar panels. There is no reason not to allow tents. They are safe and do not need to be designed by an engineer.

Please vote in support of Patterson's Pub and all the other restaurants that have tents to accommodate the public and thus are able to keep their doors open.

Sincerely, Annemarie Weibel