

Tuesdays in the Plaza: Pet Free Events

City Council Meeting
June 18, 2018

Dave Jahns, Facilities & Events Supervisor



Tuesdays in The Plaza: Pet-Free Events

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution approving the Tuesdays in the Plaza concert series as dog/pet-free events, pursuant to section 6.04.150 (D) of the Healdsburg Municipal Code



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Background

- 14-week series, approximately 1000 -1500 attendees each week, sharing a common space
- Community Services staff have held community meetings in the fall of 2017 and spring 2018 to receive feedback on the series as a whole, along with the concert policies
- Items discussed included set-up & reserving space, street closures, music selection, and pet policies
- Staff provided an update to the Parks and Recreation Commission on May 16
 - Recommendation was to keep the majority of rules in place this summer, monitor, and report back at the conclusion of the 2018 series
 - Exception: Pets - Commission recommended that Tuesdays in the Plaza become pet-free events, effective this summer citing crowding, attendees' experience, food/food vendors, pets well-being

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Current Status of Pet Policy

- Dogs prohibited within 20 feet of the food vendors
- Attendees are encouraged to leave their pets at home via posted rules
- In accordance with HMC section 6.04.150 (A), dogs are allowed in all park facilities, with the exception of Recreation Park
- Section 6.04.150(D) states that City Council may adopt a resolution prohibiting dogs in park facilities for designated special events



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Feedback and Observations

- Public Meeting on April 10 & Electronic submissions
- Staff observations and in-person feedback
- A reoccurring theme of feedback was to make the concerts pet-free events for the following reasons:
 - ✓ Pets negatively impacting other attendees' experience
 - ✓ Pets engaging in aggressive behavior
 - ✓ Concern for pets well being
 - ✓ Sensitivities to pet allergies
 - ✓ Health Department food vendor regulations



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Parks & Recreation Commission Recommendation

- Staff provided an update on community feedback received to the Parks and Recreation Commission during their May 16 meeting.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission made a recommendation to make Tuesdays in the Plaza pet-free events starting this summer. All other rules would be monitored and discussed at the conclusion of the 2018 series
- Pursuant to section 6.014.150(D) of the Healdsburg Municipal Code, City Council adoption of a resolution is required in order to prohibit dogs in park facilities for designated special events



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Staff Implementation Plan

If the resolution is adopted, staff will implement the rule change in a phased approach:

Phase 1, June 12 – 18: Staff notified concert attendees and community members through individual interaction at the concerts and social media

Phase 2, June 19 – July 10: Staff will inform and educate attendees

Phase 3, July 17: Concert series becomes pet-free

Phase 4: Fall 2018: As part of the summer review, staff will provide the Parks & Recreation Commission an update and discuss

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