



DATE: January 14, 2020
TO:
FROM: Shawn James, Planner
RE: Restaurant Standards Public Meetings

Last year, the Planning Commission and City Council directed staff to review barriers in the Zoning Code that limit opportunities for new restaurants in the City. Standards for restaurants are currently being drafted that are intended to streamline the development review process. These standards will be presented at a **Planning Commission meeting on January 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza** (1800 W. Old Shakopee Road) and you are welcome to attend and provide testimony.

Restaurants are currently conditional uses in most zoning districts in which they are allowed, which requires a public hearing before the Planning Commission. Standard conditions that have often been attached to restaurant approvals include odor mitigation systems and grease traps. The draft ordinance proposes to make restaurants with no outdoor seating or drive through permitted uses, which reduces costs and the time it takes to move from concept to opening. Similar to today, grease traps are proposed to be required. Within 250 feet of residential buildings, odor mitigation systems are proposed to continue to be required for new restaurants and for existing restaurants making a major change in both the odors being created and the ventilation system.

The draft ordinance also proposes to reduce the minimum required building size for restaurants in some zoning districts and includes new standards for outdoor patios. The staff report and draft ordinance will be available Friday, January 17th online at blm.mn/meetings.

The City Council will consider adoption of the proposed standards at a public hearing tentatively scheduled on **February 24th at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers**. The time of the City Council public hearing will be announced at the Planning Commission meeting. You are most welcome to attend either or both meetings, provide written comments sent to me beforehand, and to provide testimony at each meeting.

If you have questions about the upcoming meetings or standards, please contact me at my email, sjames@bloomingtonmn.gov, or by phone: 952-563-8918.

Sincerely,

Shawn James, AICP
Planner