Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area

April 3, 2017
What does it do?

Allows bar/restaurant patrons to legally walk around a designated outdoor area with an alcoholic beverage that has been served by a liquor-permit-holding establishment. Patrons would be required to stay within a predetermined boundary, and only during locally-established days/times/events.
1) Create an Outdoor Refreshment Area with north/south boundaries from North Street to South Street along High Street, and east/west boundaries from 26 E. New England to 41 W. New England

2) Allow alcoholic beverages to be served and consumed during daily business hours only in the right-of-way areas of the serving establishment’s parcel address or the privately owned property contiguous to the establishment

3) Allow alcoholic beverages to be served, consumed, and transported within the larger Outdoor Refreshment Area for special events only
• Effective 4/30/17 for communities of 35,000 or less in population

• Only (1) area permitted for communities of 35,000 or less in population

• No minimum acreage for area

• Maximum area shall not exceed 150 contiguous acres

• Serving container material must be plastic

• Minimum of (4) qualified permit holders (A1, AIA, Alc, A2, or D)
Potential Benefits

• Cost savings for businesses that would no longer need to construct a fence around their patio

• Increased revenue for restaurants/bars/merchants

• Better mobility, so barriers and fencing could be less of an issue
Potential Challenges

- Increased cost of signage and sanitation
- Increased police and/or EMT presence
- Ongoing education and monitoring
Variables Required by ORC

• Specific boundaries of the area

• Hours of operation for the area

• Signage

• Law enforcement/public safety plan

• Sanitation plan

• Type and labeling of plastic serving containers
Feedback From Other Communities

• Overall, very positive effect on downtown

• Reason for DORA was to attract people and businesses to downtown area with significant vacancy. This varies greatly from Worthington’s rationale

• Communication and ongoing education are critical

• Periodic stakeholder meetings on what is/isn’t working are very important
Questions for Feedback

- General Feedback on concept – What do you think?
- Everyday boundaries for outdoor dining? North to South?
- Special Event “sip and stroll”
  - Which events, activities?
    - Need Council feedback on OWP proposal
  - Event boundary?
    - Proposal is Village Green Drive South to Short Street – This incorporates all OWP events.
  - Village Green?
    - Alcohol currently prohibited by Park Rules

Legislation required for proposal

- Right-of-Way Permitting Process and Revision of Outdoor Dining Policy
- Adoption of Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area Ordinance
- Allowing alcohol on Village Green would require amendment of Park Rules in Codified Ordinances

Process

- Application required to be submitted by City Manager.
- Public hearings for legislation

Next Step

- Motion to direct staff to draft and submit application and proposed legislation