



City of CHARLOTTE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lewis and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: Sale and Consumption of Alcohol in City Parks

DATE: September 7, 2017

The Michigan Nordic Fire Festival has requested that the City modify its ordinances to permit the Festival to offer a beer tent as part of its planned February 2018 celebration. The beer tent would be placed at the location of its other events in Lincoln Park south of Shepherd Street.

City ordinances currently prohibit the sale and consumption of alcohol in City parks. The request of the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival has been reviewed by the Parks Advisory Board which is recommending a narrow exception to the current practice: to allow beer tents in conjunction with special events held in Lincoln Park south of Shepherd Street.

To put the recommendation of the Parks Advisory Board into effect, Council would need to take two actions. First, it is necessary to amend Sections 6-3 and 38-2 of the Charlotte City Code. City Attorney Tom Hitch has prepared the necessary ordinance amendment which you will find elsewhere in the agenda packet. As you will see, he has incorporated language that establishes an application and approval process. The amendment also limits the sale and consumption of alcohol to special events conducted by nonprofit organizations and to designated areas of parks.

The second action Council would need to take is to approve a change to the Council policy regulating conduct within and use of City parks to designate areas where alcohol sales and consumption would be permitted. In keeping with the recommendation of the Parks Advisory Board, only the open space portion of Lincoln Park south of Shepherd Street is identified.

Both of these items are introduced for first reading with a recommendation that a public hearing be held on the office during Council's September 25 meeting.