



Memorandum

TO: Grosse Pointe Woods City Council; Frank Schulte, City Manager; Paul Antolin, City Clerk
FROM: Brigitte Wolf, AICP
SUBJECT: **Social District Recommendations – Updated**
DATE: May 3, 2024

After further consideration and communication with businesses in the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, we would like to re-present a proposal to create a Social District. To establish a Social District with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, we must establish “an area ... that is **shared by and contiguous to the premises of at least two other qualified licensees**” and that has clearly marked boundaries. Qualified licensees consist of bars/restaurants with a Class C, Tavern, Club, or Brewpub License to serve alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits, or mixed spirits or drinks). The following qualified businesses are interested in participating in a Social District (also represented on Map Exhibit A):

- Crispelli’s Bakery and Pizzeria
- Mack Avenue Grill
- Salvatore Scallopini
- Da Edoardo Restaurant
- Bucci Ristorante
- Someday Brewing
- Ferlito’s Restaurant
- Telly’s Place
- Pendency’s Grosse Pointe

Once approved by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC), they may serve alcoholic beverages on their licensed premises in **marked cups** to customers who may drink the alcoholic beverages anywhere within the Commons Areas of the Social Districts. More than one commons area may be created within the City, which is what we propose given the location of the interested participants.

The proposed districts include the “**Northern Social District**,” north of Vernier Rd., outlined in green on the map and the “**City Hall Social District**” outlined in blue.

The “**Northern Social District**” marked in green on the map includes:

- Mack Avenue with Vernier Road as the southern boundary and Hampton Road as the northern boundary, for the sidewalk on the west side of the street, the boundary is similar on the east side of the road except it excludes the public right of way in front of the gas station at the northeast corner of the Vernier Road and Mack Avenue intersection;
- Chene-Trombly Park; and
- Two (2) Crosswalks on Mack at Anita Road and Ridgemont to Hampton Road.



A successful Social District allows people to gather and meet friends or make new ones. Elements that contribute to a successful district include housing, restaurants, and “**parks, plazas, and other gathering areas.**”¹

The City will be working with participating businesses to add more public seating options in the right-of-way. However, given the seating options, size, location, public restrooms, and visibility of the Chene-Trombly Park we recommend including this park as an asset to include in the Common Areas to help make this District a success.

The “**City Hall Social District**” outlined in blue on the map spans:

- The public right-of-way on the west of Mack Avenue from Broadstone Street north to Lochmoor Boulevard,
- The public right-of-way on the east side of Mack Ave. from Cook Road north to Oxford Road;
- The front lawn of City Hall; and
- Three (3) crosswalks across Mack Ave at Cook Road, Torrey Road, and Lochmoor Boulevard.

The Commons Areas automatically included in the districts include the sidewalks along Mack Avenue and the side streets within the boundary, designated green space, and crosswalks (shown in Exhibit B and C). The City may also allow non food-establishments (salons, galleries, retails shops, etc.) within the District to participate.

We propose allowing the Social District to occur from May to October on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1pm until 10pm.

At any point in the future, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods may change the boundaries, hours, and days of the Social District with Council approval.

REQUIREMENTS TO CREATING A SOCIAL DISTRICT

Presented for consideration are the materials needed to establish a Social District designation with the MLCC, the materials include the following:

1. A copy of the Resolution passed by the governing body designating the Social District and common area;
2. A copy of the Management and Maintenance Plans, including the hours of operation, established by the local governmental unit for the Social District and common area;
3. A diagram or map that clearly shows the boundaries of the Social District and commons area and identifies the qualified licensees that are contiguous to the commons area on the diagram or map.

¹ Sarah J. Gabis of the law firm of Foster Swift Collins & Swift, P.C., *Social District Fact Sheet*, Michigan Municipal League (MML), Sept. 2020
Grosse Pointe Woods · Social District
May 3, 2024



RESOLUTION

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Wayne County, Michigan

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A SOCIAL DISTRICT WITH COMMONS AREAS TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN OPEN CONTAINERS WHEN SOLD BY DESIGNATED LOCAL AND STATE PERMITTED LICENSEES

WHEREAS, Michigan Public Act 124 of 2020 was signed into law on July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the law allows Michigan municipalities to establish Social Districts where two or more contiguous licensed establishments could sell alcoholic beverages in special cups to be taken into the Commons Areas for consumption; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods establishes Social Districts with two Commons Areas along Mack Avenue, one north of Vernier Road, known as the 'Northern Social District' and the other oriented around City Hall to be known as the 'City Hall Social District', will be created and managed by the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods boundaries for the Northern Social District is generally along Mack Avenue north of Vernier Road to Hampton Road and for the City Hall Social District is generally from Broadstone north to Lochmoor Boulevard along the west side of Mack Avenue, and from Cook Road north to Oxford Road on the east side of Mack Avenue;

WHEREAS, the Commons Areas boundaries incorporate the front lawn of City Hall, and Chene-Trombly Park, as well as sidewalks, crosswalks and permitted outdoor patios in rights-of-way within the boundaries of the district that are not included in the qualified licensees' premises; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will allow for the Social District to occur from the May-October on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays between the hours of 1pm until 10pm, and

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will abide by all stipulations of Michigan Public Act 124 of 2020 and follow established best practices in the creation and maintenance of the Social District; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of the two Commons Areas of the Grosse Pointe Social Districts will assist our businesses along the Mack Avenue Corridor in attracting customers for enhanced outdoor dining, increased foot traffic, and socializing and entertainment experiences in the heart of the City around the City Hall and along the commercial corridor north of Vernier Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council does hereby approve the creation of two Grosse Pointe Woods Social Districts as depicted in the attached map (Exhibit A, B, and C) for consideration by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Motion for adoption by:

Supported by:

- AYES
- NAYS
- ABSENT

This is to certify that this resolution was duly adopted at the meeting of the City Council on May 6, 2024.



Arthur Bryant
Mayor

Paul Antolin
City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I understand the duly qualified City Clerk for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Wayne County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a motion adopted by the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, on May 6, 2024, the original of which is in my office, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and that the full set of minutes from said meeting will be made available, as required by said Act.

Paul Antolin, City Clerk

Dated: _____



MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

City of Grosse Pointe Woods Social District

Operations and Maintenance Plan

Intent

In an effort to support local restaurants, bars, microbreweries, and similar food service businesses, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods has established a permitting process for temporary outdoor social districts and Commons Areas. Commons Areas are intended to allow for outdoor dining and alcoholic beverage consumption on City properties that are adjacent to or near associated businesses establishments. This application package is designed to ensure compliance with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) guidelines and Public Act 58 of 1998 as amended by Public Act 124 of 2020.

The Commons Areas are proposed to be administered through the Building Department and permits from both the MLCC and the City are required prior to utilization by qualified establishments. The Commons Areas will be monitored by the City's Police Department.

This plan can change at **any time** per the discretion of City Council and City Administration.

District Boundaries and Commons Areas

Commons Areas are intended to provide extra outdoor space for consumption of alcoholic beverages and increase foot traffic and gathering of peoples while ensuring sufficient separation between unrelated parties. The areas will accommodate seating options, barriers, boundaries, posted signage on ground mounted signs and accessory materials related to the offered services. Qualified establishments, as defined by PA 124 of 2020 may apply to utilize **certain specifically designated places within** the established Commons Areas.

The Common Areas for the Northern Social District include:

1. The sidewalk in the rights-of-way along Mack Avenue and side streets within the boundaries of the district;
2. Pedestrian crossing across Mack Avenue at Anita Road and Ridgemont to Hampton Road.
3. The Chene-Trombly Parks, which will close at dusk;
4. In accordance with the MLCC guidelines, all Commons Areas must be "contiguous to the premises of at least 2 qualified licensees."

The Common Areas for the City Hall Social District include:

1. The right-of-way along Mack Avenue and side streets within the boundaries of the district;
2. Pedestrian crossing across Mack Avenue at Lochmoor Boulevard, Torrey Road, and Cook Road;
3. The front lawn of City Hall along the Mack Plaza Drive;
4. In accordance with the MLCC guidelines, all Commons Areas must be "contiguous to the premises of at least 2 qualified licensees."

It is also intended that Commons Areas may be shared by multiple businesses, so long as the shared use is defined by the City authorization and joint operation and maintenance guidelines are established. However, public spaces immediately in front of a business establishment will be reserved solely for that business (exp. public



sidewalks and parking spaces). All designated spaces will be subject to review by Grosse Pointe Woods Police and Fire Departments for traffic and safety considerations.

Other Options for Outdoor Dining and Alcoholic Beverage Consumption

The establishment of the Commons Areas in accordance with the new MLCC provisions in no way negates the ability of businesses to establish sidewalk cafes for outdoor dining and alcoholic beverage consumption or exempts businesses from having to apply for the City's Outdoor Café and Dining Application in accordance with the pre-existing MLCC guidelines and City ordinances. The Commons Areas are intended to be supplemental and in addition to these previous provisions.

Operations Plan

The operations of the Grosse Pointe Woods Social District will be overseen by the City Manager after consultation with the Director of Public Safety with assistance from other City Departments as necessary. The Grosse Pointe Woods Social District is solely in place to support local business owners and has no regulatory or taxing authority. The City of Grosse Pointe Woods will provide any supporting documentation that local businesses need for their social district permit applications to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Social District Commons Area hours of operation are as followed:

1pm – 10pm Thursday through Sunday in the months of May to October.

The Commons Area will be closed on the following US Holidays: New Years Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas.

The City will provide signage throughout the district that clearly marks the boundaries of the entire Social District and Commons Areas. Additionally, Commons Areas hours of operation signs will also be placed at the boundary line North, South, East, and West. Public Safety Officers will be utilized to enforce the hours of operations and commons areas boundaries when necessary and appropriate.

The City will also have a dedicated section of its website that will include a copy of this plan, hours of operations, maps showcasing boundaries and participating businesses. All of the City's communication channels will be utilized to notify consumers when the Social District and/or commons areas are closed for maintenance or for the holidays stated above.

Maintenance Plan

Commons Areas of the Social District are subject to the following requirements:

1. Boundaries, structures, and materials associated with Commons Areas shall:
 - a. Not impede drivers, pedestrians, or wheelchair users. *Note: The City will consider the extended closure of sections of public parking lots and streets, subject to maintaining adequate access to the surrounding properties.*
 - b. Not block sight visibility of remaining parking lot aisles or intersections.
 - c. Not impede emergency vehicle and personnel access.
 - d. Not prevent access to nearby businesses or homes.
 - e. Be approved by City of Grosse Pointe Woods Police and Fire Departments.
2. Alcohol service shall conform to all Michigan Liquor Control Commission requirements, including any Social District and Commons Areas Permit requirements. Specifically:
 - a. The serving container must prominently display the licensee's trade name or logo or some other mark that is unique to the licensee that sold the alcohol.



- b. The serving container must prominently display a logo or some other mark that is unique to the commons area.
 - c. The serving container is not made of glass.
 - d. The serving container does not have a liquid capacity over 16 ounces.
3. **Hours of operation shall begin no earlier than 1:00 PM and food and beverage service shall discontinue in the Commons Areas no later than 10:00 PM.** Service shall not extend beyond the range established in the MLCC or City permits.
 4. Service shall conform to the permitted days of operation during the months of **May to October**.
 5. The layout of boundaries, structures, and materials shall conform to the proposed outdoor Commons Area layout plan during open hours. Outdoor dining areas must receive the proper permits with the Building Department and undergo annual renewal and must comply with the Zoning Ordinance.
 6. Tents and other temporary shelter structures shall be approved by Fire and Building Official.
 7. Waste receptacles shall be provided within the Commons Area and shall be emptied regularly during open hours and at close each day.
 8. Heaters must be approved by the Building and Fire Department (type and location).
 9. Smoking is not permitted within designated Commons Areas.

Signage and Barriers

The City will prepare generic signs as required by the MLCC Rules that identify the general boundaries of the Commons Areas. The individual establishments may be required to provide additional barriers to define the portion of the Commons Area they plan to utilize and provide for the safety of their customers/patrons. Additional barriers or barricades as specified by the City may be required when the area utilized is within a parking lot and/or on a public sidewalk or right-of-way. The City will assist in coordination between the permitted establishments to minimize the necessary investment in additional barriers/barricades.

The marked cups from participating businesses will be marked with an uniform logo, such as in the image to the right.



Revocation of Designation

The City Council may revoke the designation of a commons area if it determines that the commons area threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the public or has become a nuisance. Before revoking the designation of a commons area, the City Council shall give notice as required under the Open Meeting Act, MCL§15.761 et seq and hold at least 1 public hearing on the proposed revocation.

The City shall file the revocation of the designation with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Requirements of Permit Holders

A qualified licensee whose licensed premises is shared by and contiguous to a commons area in a Social District designated hereunder shall obtain from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission an annual social district permit.

The holder of a social district permit issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission may sell alcoholic liquor for consumption within the confines of a commons area if both of the following requirements are met:

The holder of a social district permit only sells and serves alcoholic liquor on the holder's licensed premises.



The holder of a Social District permit only serves alcoholic liquor to be consumed in the commons area in a container to which all of the following shall apply: (i) the container prominently displays the social district permittee's trade name or logo or some other mark that is unique to the Social District permittee's on-premises license; (ii) the container prominently displays a logo or some other mark that is unique to the commons area; (iii) the container is not glass; and (iv) the container has a liquid capacity that does not exceed 16 ounces.

A purchaser may remove a container of alcoholic liquor sold by the holder of a Social District permit from the Social District permittee's licensed premises if both of the following conditions are met: (i) the purchaser does not remove the container from the commons area and (ii) while possessing the container, the purchaser does not enter the licensed premises of a Social District permittee other than the Social District permittee from which the purchaser purchased the container.

The consumption of alcoholic liquor in the commons area as allowed herein may only occur during the legal hours of the sale of alcoholic liquor of the social district permittee.

Reasonable conditions may be applied by the City to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. The City reserves the right to request additional details and information to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

Plan amendments may be considered at any time but must comply with all requirements for Commons Areas.



GROSSE POINTE WOODS SOCIAL DISTRICT PARTICIPATION PERMIT

Date: _____ Permit #: _____

Business Information		
Name of Business		
Business Address		
Mailing Address		
Name of Owner/ Responsible Party:		
Name of Contact Person:		
Phone Number	E-mail	
Description of Commons Area Services/Uses:		
Required Material to Attach		
<input type="checkbox"/> Layout Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Proof of MLCC Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Proof of Liability Insurance (Naming City Additionally Insured)
X _____ Date: _____ <i>Signature of Owner/Responsible Party</i>		
<i>I verify all of the information on and attached to this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge; and I commit to adhere to the City of Grosse Pointe Woods Commons Area Management Plan and the MLCC requirements for Social District(s).</i>		
CITY USE ONLY		
Department Approvals: <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> DPW		
Permit #	<input type="checkbox"/> All Required Materials Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Approved	Date of Approval
Conditions of Approval		
X _____ Date: _____ <i>Signature of Building Official</i>		
Printed Name:		