Anonymous comment on Parklets:

Corner of 100east center street  Center street square: nine businesses, seven plus apartments on second floor, real estate company and healing arts on the same premises. Definitely No parking for 1: customers 2: apartment year around residence 3: visitors 4: employees. Problem with traffic flow and pedestrians (crowding) on sidewalk blocking business entry's. Dogs are a big problem, tied on rails, benches and inside parklet dining area. Having parklet dining visible with lights in the evening breaks dark sky ordinance. ?

    Thanks to team Moab city and locals for helping small businesses during the pandemic. It's time to reopen indoor dining    Thanks for reading my concerns    I like to remain anonymous.
Sent from my iPhone
I am writing to you as a Citizen to be Heard, regarding making the on street dining a permanent part of the City of Moab’s code.

When the on street dining began during the pandemic; in the summer of 2020, no one objected, because we all understood it was a way to increase the restaurants (collective) customer base as that industry was hit very hard. We felt like it was a way we could all support each other. We also understood it to be a temporary solution to a temporary problem.

Fast forward to now, spring 2021. Restaurants are able to re-open and serve more guests, as are the other businesses in Center Street Square. As I observe it the only restaurant in Moab taking advantage of on street dining is 1 in Center Street Square. There are 13 businesses in total in that small square, some require parking for their guests and customers, some not so much. However; the restaurant take up 2 on street parking spaces for dining on Center Street and 100 East.

As we all know parking is at a premium in Moab. It doesn’t seem right or equitable that the City would write into code a special dispensation for only one business, effectively doubling floor space for a good share of the year, usurping parking stalls that the other 11 businesses in the square rely upon for their customers. Basically giving favor to one restaurant in the building over other restaurants competition. Privelege?

Outdoor dining does look and feel festive and fun, who doesn’t like to sit outside and enjoy a meal? The real world ramifications it takes on the other small businesses around it are; 1) customers leaving because they don’t have a place to park, 2) loss of revenue.

Some of the businesses in Center Street Square have elderly or disabled customers, there is only one ADA stall for all 13 businesses located in the small parking lot to the west and it isn’t easily visible. That isn’t the City’s issue, nor the fault of the owner or management it’s simply an observation and statement of fact.

Before you vote to enact this provision in code please look at the overall City of Moab, who is benefitting from this application, who does it impact negatively, is it a needed change or merely a cosmetic want in response to a once in a lifetime pandemic.

Norm Boyd
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I have worked at Alberta’s images for over 20 years. The building had been a struggle the parking is just like everywhere else non existent. We have been very tolerant due to COVID changes. When the parkette was put on the corner the dynamic really changed, not only the parking was unavailable for our clients the sidewalks where congested with no clear walk way the crosswalk became dangerous and the crowds of standing patrons filled our doorway. The restaurant is very busy and I am happy for them but the area is not big enough for them to not have opened up the inside to seating and for them to handle the crowds with out affecting our business. Over the 20 years the 4 way intersection has been a dangerous one. If emergency services aren’t tearing out if there the rv’s that have missed the entrance to the visitors center are flipping a u turn. With the parkette you now have to walk almost half way out into traffic for a vehicle to see you. If you are pulling out into traffic the same applies. I understand it was an option for COVID but long term there needs to be some more thought out into the decision. In the ordinance written there is no mention of dogs. People walking on the sidewalks with a dog and a patron eating at the restaurant with a dog has numerous times caused a fight. If a parklette wherever is was placed didn’t affect other businesses with taking away parking or large crowds hanging around doorways or blocking sidewalks, traffic they might be an asset in Moab. So far it has done the opposite. I know there has been some concern vocalized to council members, mayor and restaurant owners. I would wish you would please listen and stop making exceptions. Over the months we have taken pictures not as a reason for an argument but to show there is a serious problem. Thank you Stephanie shepherd.