

Yountville Sun

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Boisset's Brew Pub, Chiarello's Platform 8 Approved by Council

Yountville's Town Council spent hours Tuesday discussing the details of plans presented for the Yountville Brewing Company by vintner and businessman Jean-Charles Boisset and chef and restaurateur Michael Chiarello for Platform 8, a high tech hamburger joint, where diners will order their meals via iPads, and ice cream will be made to order with liquid nitrogen in a "lab." But fundamentally none of the five members were opposed to the two concepts presented, and both won their approval.

The new brew pub will be located in the Whistlestop Center in the space currently occupied by the Overland Sheepskin retail store.

Boisset's planning consultant Donna Oldford told the Council, "We have solved the parking problem" and noted that all drinking and dining has been moved inside, reducing exterior noise.

She predicted the business will be an attractive addition to Yountville's business community, adding diversity and serving the needs of both locals and visitors.

Kevin Bloch, attorney for Lori Altamura Jones, owner of The Railway Inn, agreed progress had been made on the brew pub plan but said the site is still a very challenging one and disruptive to his client's existing business.

He suggested the Council write a 550-gallon beer production limit into the use permit, eliminate four tandem parking spaces which he said will be eyesores for inn guests and eliminate food take-out service from the pub.

Bloch further said Yountville's ordinances and codes prohibit tandem parking in business zones.

Town Manager Steve Rogers, noting that the pub plans call for spring water to be trucked into the site for the brewing process, said it will be necessary to quantify the amount of water brought in for production so that it can be

factored into the Town's sewer capacity.

Rogers' request was the only one added as a condition of approval to the permit.

The vote of the Council was 4-0, with Council Member Kerri Dorman abstaining after voicing her opposition to the tandem parking spaces and the foul odor which may emanate from the pub during the brewing process, estimated to last for 90 minutes once or twice per week.

In speaking for Platform 8, which will open in the national historic site previously occupied by Pacific Blues Cafe, Chiarello said making an old-fashioned banana split in a vintage building in a high tech way will be fun and that the space will be brought back as a vibrant gathering place.

Council members Marjorie Mohler, Dorman and Vice Mayor Marita Dorenbecher and citizen Pam Reeves voiced their concerns about the large liquid nitrogen tank that will be exposed in an exterior area, open to the public.

Yountville Planning Director Sandra Liston reported the fire marshal had raised concerns about the placement of the stainless steel liquid nitrogen tank as well and that a building permit cannot be issued for the project until the marshal is satisfied that the planned tank and its installation and placement meet public safety standards.

While the Council considered putting conditions on the tank, Mayor John Dunbar cautioned the Council against trying to do the job of the fire marshal, noting that there will be an in-depth evaluation at the time the building permit is pulled.

Council went on to approve the plans without additional conditions.

Chiarello and his investors wasted no time in starting on their project. Yesterday the Platform 8 site was fenced off as a construction site, and portions of the old deck railings were removed.



letters

JCB Appreciates, Partnership, Guidance

Dear Editor:

We would like to express our immense gratitude to the Town of Yountville staff, business and citizens for their incredible guidance in helping us to achieve a successful outcome for the newly approved Yountville Brewing Company.

Town staff, particularly Planning Director Sandra Liston, Town Manager Steve Rogers, as well as Nathan Steele and more, diligently respected the wishes and requests of neighbors, local businesses and citizens alike to refine the project to best suit the site and its important location in the center of town.

They provided magnificent

leadership and inspiration, balancing the need to create a vibrant and dynamic brewery that respects the unique attributes of Yountville and the particular demands of our site in the center of town.

We appreciate their partnership, guidance, patience and vision to respect what is best for local business and residents alike.

In addition, the Town Council led by Mayor John Dunbar, carefully reviewed the project, weighing important considerations in their deliberations and providing strategic guidance to further enhance the Brewery going forward – we appreciate the important work they do for the Town of Yountville and the Napa Valley at large! Our community is stronger thanks to their leadership.

It has been our dream to be great citizens of Yountville, and to enhance the town character by providing a central destination in the town's historic railroad depot with a brewpub that is a unique attraction available nowhere else in Yountville – with high-end, limited-production, local-

ly-produced beers with locally-grown ingredients that complement the town's wide array of wine and food offerings.

Many exceptional neighbors as well contributed to improving and enhancing the project through constructive feedback, dialogue and partnership, and we are honored to be a part of such a dynamic community that helps and supports one another.

We are thrilled that soon, we will all as neighbors be able to enjoy a beer together at the historic railroad depot at the center of this extraordinary village!

Warmest wishes,
Jean-Charles Boisset
Boisset Collection
St. Helena