



Report to Council

From the Office of Councillor Steve Milani

Date: March 24, 2021
Subject: Mobile Food Carts

Purpose

To seek Council's approval to develop a policy that would allow Mobile Food Carts to operate within the City of Port Moody with the goal to contribute to the animation of public spaces.

Recommendation

THAT staff be directed to develop a Mobile Food Cart policy as recommended in the report dated March 24, 2024 from the Office of Councillor Steve Milani regarding Mobile Food Carts.

Background

The City of Port Moody prides itself on being a vibrant, walkable city with a unique character. While food trucks add to this vibrancy, expanding the program to include mobile food carts would add an additional dimension to the experience, enticing more people to walk around and explore this beautiful city. This extra foot traffic could possibly lead people to venture into local businesses, aiding in their post-pandemic economic recovery.

Discussion

Food has been available on the streets of many cities worldwide for as long as can be remembered and for good reason. Street food is convenient and appealing to a large demographic, including locals and tourists, students and busy professionals, singles, and even large families.

Food carts can contribute to neighbourhood livability and vitality by enlivening dull urban spaces which in turn can encourage social interaction. People love meandering through city streets and parks, especially in walkable cities such as Port Moody. Food carts can help add to the city's funky vibe by providing a fun culinary experience to those who venture out to explore the city. Imagine the thrill of coming across a cart that serves crepes at Queens Street Plaza or maybe one that serves roasted chestnuts at Rocky Point Park on a cool fall evening, or hot chocolate in the winter.

A Mobile Food Cart is defined as any wagon, cart, or kiosk from which food, confectionery, or beverage is offered for sale on approved City streets, plazas, parks, or other public locations.

(Attachment 1) Strolling food carts such as bicycles or push-carts selling items such as popsicles should also be considered for inclusion into the program as they would fit in well at places such as Rocky Point Park. Food carts are not permitted to remain overnight at their assigned locations.

Mobile Food Cart programs are not new in Metro Vancouver. This report recommends modeling the new Mobile Food Cart Policy after the one currently in place with the City of North Vancouver (**Attachment 2**). Identifying suitable locations is important to ensure successful participation. Possible locations could include streets, parks, plazas, parking lots, and other public spaces deemed suitable by staff.

Other Option

THAT the report dated March 24, 2021, from the Office of Councillor Steve Milani regarding Mobile Food Carts be received for information.

Financial Implications

Further information on financial implications would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

The recommendations in this report meet the following Council's Strategic Plan Objectives:

- Community Evolution: Plan and develop, for future generations, a vibrant, connected, and livable city, with distinctive places and spaces, where growth is managed in strategic balance with quality of life. Bring people together by activating public spaces.
- Healthy City: Create a safe, friendly, and inclusive community that encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities. Ensure the built environment and infrastructure allows for and encourages active living.
- Economic Prosperity: Support the growth of businesses and business neighbourhood development.

Attachments

1. Food Cart Examples
2. City of North Vancouver Mobile Food Cart Policy