RASH FIELD PARK CAFE AT BALTIMORE’S INNER HARBOR

BACKGROUND

The Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore is the steward of Baltimore’s waterfront district, serving the Inner Harbor, Harbor East, Harbor Point and Fell’s Point, and, also, maintaining Federal Hill Park. Since 2015, Waterfront Partnership has been working with local communities to improve Rash Field and is in the midst of a fundraising campaign to bring new life to this underused piece of the Inner Harbor.

Waterfront Partnership is paving the way for a locally-owned outdoor café as part of the improvements and development of Rash Field Park.

City residents voted in 2016 to support referendum “Question H for the Harbor,” allowing outdoor eateries – one at West Shore Park and one at Rash Field.

In addition to offering light fare such as sandwiches and salads, Waterfront Partnership seeks the opportunity to apply for a liquor license for the café. Senate Bill 584 and House Bill 637 would provide the enabling legislation to bring the issue to the local level.

Should Senate Bill 584 and House Bill 637 pass, Waterfront Partnership must apply for a license with the Baltimore City Liquor Board detailing specific plans for the café offerings, days, and hours of operation. Waterfront Partnership will also create an MOU with the neighborhood and present at a public hearing before the Liquor Board.

The Rash Field Park café is intended to be an amenity for Park users. It will not be a concert pavilion hosting large bands. If music is provided, it will be to provide background atmosphere type music for café patrons.

PURPOSE

It is envisioned that under the license, the cafe could serve beer, wine and liquor for on-premise consumption within a designated area. The idea is that while a family enjoys the park, they can grab lunch and a glass of wine, and following a volleyball game, friends can enjoy a beer before heading home.
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OPERATING HOURS

The cafe will only operate during hours that the park is open. The goal for a redeveloped Rash Field Park is to bring more visitors to the south side of the Inner Harbor. While we anticipate more activity at the park once improvements -- such as the new pavilion, skate park, public restrooms and café -- are complete, the park will close at 11 PM in the summer, thereby mitigating noise to the residents of Federal Hill. Waterfront Partnership’s hospitality and safety guides will patrol the park during times when the park is open.

The café is not intended or expected to be a destination or the sole reason for a visit to the park; it is an additional option to get food and drinks for visitors already enjoying the park and the Inner Harbor.

PARKING

While this additional amenity does provide one more reason to visit the Inner Harbor, we do not anticipate more vehicular traffic than any other day. That said, up to eight parking spots will be created to service the café. These spots are in addition to the various garages available downtown as well as 85 parking spaces on average in Marina Garage and parking along Key Highway adjacent to Federal Hill Park.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly at rashfield@waterfrontpartnership.org or 443-743-3307

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