

Mark Baltes
President
North End Neighborhood Association, Inc.
1515. N. 17th Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Letter of Support for Franklin House

July 22, 2020

To whom this may concern,

The Franklin House is a bed and breakfast located in the refurbished Tourtelotte House at 15th and Franklin Street. In addition to the four themed guest rooms, what makes Franklin House unique is the fenced back patio area which seats around 40 people. In addition to providing hospitality to for its guests, the patio is open to the neighborhood. (Adults over the age of 21). There is beer and wine served, an on occasion, a food truck stations itself in their parking lot in the alley.

On July 15th, I attended the neighborhood meeting which was held as a requirement of the city's issuance of Exceptional Use Permit. There were 14 in attendance, mostly neighbors and residents within the impacted area. The facility has been in operation since 2019. Interestingly, the vast majority of neighborhood patrons walk or bicycle to Franklin House, utilizing its ample bike coral. I appreciated the fact that one owner lives on the premises and therefore maintains close oversight of the operation including patio capacity, hour of operation and monitoring noise levels. At the meeting, there were no negative comments made by those in attendance.

I also appreciated that the city of Boise allowed Franklin House the opportunity to demonstrate the concept and work through any issues that may arise- and is to be expected whenever an innovative enterprise such as this is introduced into the community.

In our North End Neighborhood planning process now underway, establishment of localized gathering places similar to this were favorably supported by a significant number of residents who took the survey. It's my belief that this is a good fit in this transitional area of the North End. Although on a much smaller scale, Franklin House is reminiscent of any number of McMenammin public houses in and around Portland which contribute greatly to vibrancy of their neighborhoods.

That said, I would like to offer my support for issuance of the exceptional use permit for the Franklin House and continuance of its current uses. I believe that when operated within reasonable conditions for approval, Franklin House is a positive amenity within the near North End neighborhood. Please note that these are my personal comments and are not intended to be taken as an endorsement or statement of support by NENA.

Sincerely,
Mark Baltes