

Mobile Food Vending Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

01/22/2026

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Benjamin Lee at 2:03 pm.
- The roll call of Board Members showed eleven (11) members present, three (3) members absent and three (3) currently vacant representatives.
- Board Member Jim Pashovich made a motion to dispense of the reading of October 16, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Adam Wallace, motion carried.
- Board Member Kelli Hykes made a motion to accept the Board Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2025. The motion was seconded by Board Member Adam Wallace, motion carried.

Old Business

- License Officer Glenn Rutter updated the Board on current Mobile Food Vending License Stats.
 - o 489 Mobile Food Vending issued with 64 Public Right of Ways.
 - o 69 PROW Issued (32 pushcarts).
 - o 31 MFV pending applications (Incomplete paperwork, No shows for inspections or failed inspections).
- License Officer Glenn Rutter advised the Board Members that the evaluation & measurements of the Short North's 68 last and first spots eliminated 20 spots due to handicap and 30-minute meters leaving a total of 49 valid spots. After a Board Discussion a motion was made by Board member Kelli Hykes made a recommendation to the Director to add recommended Mobile Food Vending Spots. The motion was seconded by Board Member Adam Wallace, motion carried.
- Board Chair Benjamin Lee advised the Board that the 311 website for MFV complaints was finalized and that 311 had chosen not to proceed with the MFV Dropdown due to complication with the workflow.
- Board Member Adam Wallace re-addressed the Board regarding opening more current spots for daylight hours. Deputy Director Wendi Bootes advised that she would meet with the Director to discuss this issue.
- After Board Members discussed current MFV public operating spots. Board Member Zac James made a motion for a second request for clarification on how current spots operating times and congestion zones are determined for current along with on proceeding forward. The motion was seconded by Board Member Kelli Hykes, motion carried.
- Board Member Adam Wallace made a motion to recommend to the Director of Public Service to move the Ride Share Signs in the Short North be moved one parking spot forward so that Food Trucks could park in the last spot of the block. The motion was seconded by Board Member Zac James. Motion carried.

New Business

- Board Member Jeff Ross advised the Board Members that the required hood inspection per Columbus Fire Code will be enforced for the upcoming inspections and that any food truck or trailer with a hood that has not had a hood inspection will fail their fire inspection.
- Board Member Jeff Ross also advised the Board Members that the new 2025 State Fire Marshal Fire Code will require that Food Trucks/Trailers manufactured or initially titled after 04/01/2026 with type one hoods will be required to have a fire suppression system. License Office Glenn Rutter also advised the Board Members that due to this requirement that a new requirement for MFV Application will require that all MFV Food Truck/Trailers will be required to also submit the unit's title. This will be used to grandfather in those that were manufactured or titled before the 04/01/2026 fire suppression system requirement.
- The Board Members discussed the current Reservation System and the RFP. Board Member Adam Wallace advised that the system does a good job.
- The Board was advised that the next MFV Board Meeting will be on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

- After a Board discussion Board Member Zac James made a motion for the city to review the possibility of a PROW MFV Food Court. The motion was seconded by Board Member Kelli Hykes, motion carried.
- Board Member Adam Wallace discussed with the Board on with the issue of not being allowed to set up pushcarts along a parade route and how did this happen, nothing in the current code prohibits this. Board Member Adam Wallce made a motion to allow pushcarts to setup along a parade route. The motion was seconded by Board Member Jim Pashovich, motion carried.

Discussion

- Pushcart Owner Victor Dabbs advised the Board members that MFV Spots are not hot spots and that spots 11-14 are dead zones, no money. Delete spots that have no traffic at all and limit the number of licensed pushcarts.

Adjournment

- Board Member Jim Pashovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Krista Stradley, motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm.