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cussion at the City Council level, but not to include a cap on potency in the draft ordinance.

As far as other cannabis-related businesses, the only major omission from the recommendations is cultivation—no commercial gardens or greenhouses allowed in city limits. Others, however, like delivery services, will have a place—and with no cap on how many. In fact, aside from retail operations, none of the other businesses will be capped; all will be handled through a permitting process. Manufacturing facilities larger than 5,000 square feet will require more extensive review.

About a dozen members of the public, several of them from the cannabis committee, spoke during the public comment period. They expressed concerns ranging from ensuring only people 21 and older are allowed to purchase cannabis products to the ability of code enforcement to monitor businesses' compliance with local regulations like keeping concentrates behind the counter. The state handles sting operations on alcohol and tobacco businesses, explained Brendan Vieg, Chico's community development director of planning and housing, and it's his understanding cannabis is handled similarly. Internal Affairs directed staff to look at various fee structures, including a sales tax, to ensure funding for code enforcement.

Karli Olsen, who represented the Chico Chamber of Commerce on the cannabis committee, expressed frustration at Brown's presentation, calling it "disingenuous." She felt it didn't accurately depict the group's desires and said the process "lacked transparency." Others, however, including speakers from the anti-cannabis contingent, praised the process and the progress made.

MacKenzie concurred: "People disagreed, but you don't have to be contentious to disagree," she told the CN&R. "If anyone walked away thinking they got everything, it wouldn't have been successful. Since nobody's completely happy, I think we did a good job."

The draft ordinance will go before the City Council likely in the next couple of months, Brown said. Then it will go to the Planning Commission to discuss zoning.

—MEREDITH J. COOPER
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Butte Environmental Council



and The City of Chico



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