

**City of Columbus**  
**Public Hearing – 15201 Zurich Street NE CUP Amendment Application (PC-16-109)**  
**(Running Aces)**  
**April 6, 2016**

The April 6, 2016 Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding the request of Running Aces (RAHP) for a Conditional Use Permit amendment to allow the relocation of the Recreational Camping Area from the front lot to the secure barn (stable) area at 15201 Zurich Street NE was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Jim Watson, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council member Bill Krebs, and Mayor Dave Povolny; Jacob Foerst, Ally Deshong, John Kinghorn, Mark Montgomery, Taro Ito, Pat Preiner and Mary Preiner.

**Sternberg:** Now we're gonna have a Public Hearing and discussion for 15201 Zurich Street Northeast CUP amendment request, pages 1-15 and enclosure. And, at this time, I'll ask the recording secretary to read the notice as published.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

**Sternberg:** Thank you. And, at this time, I'd like to ask the applicants to please come forward. And if you could just state your name and address for the record, please.

**Ito:** Taro Ito, 5833 Turtle Lake Road, Shoreview, Minnesota.

**Sternberg:** Thank you, sir. And if you can just give us a little background on what it is that you're asking.

**Ito:** Um, we are proposing asking the Commission and the Council to consider, uh, installing, or us constructing a, uh, trailer park, which we currently do have approval for and have had since the beginning. But currently it's located in front of the parking lot, um, of the casino. This is the back side, just to orient you (referring to overhead). That's Zurich street there, and the barn area is those rectangular white—yeah—our before barn areas, uh, A, B, C, and D. Um, the current RV park is located up in the corner, and it's not, I apologize, it's not shown on this map. Um, but our proposal is to relocate those to the, that area right there, along the fence line of, uh, Zurich Street. Um, and we are proposing approximately 20 trailer stalls to be used for housing of horsemen who are relocating here for the season—currently a 53-day season. Um, and this is a requirement, a stipulation in our regulations by the Minnesota Racing Commission. So this is part of that obligation, is to provide housing for the horsemen. That's basically . . . We, we're going to tie to the, uh, City sewer, the Zurich Street, and we have received, uh, prior to this we have received all of our required, uh, approvals. We have received one from the Met Council regarding the sewer and water, uh, appropriate charges. We also submitted the application to the Department of Labor, who has approved the current plumbing plans, and sewer/water connections that I think you have been provided. Department of Health has also reviewed the plans and have, we have

received approval, uh, from them. And the last sort of approval process is here with the Planning Commission, and then, ultimately, with the City Council.

**Sternberg:** Okay. Does the Planning Commission have any questions for Mr. Ito?

**Preiner:** I have one. Mr. Ito will all this be ready for this season? Right?

**Ito:** Well, that is the ultimate goal, and this is certainly a big, uh, aspect of it. Receiving approval will allow us to start the project. We have all of the, uh, contractors in line. We are currently using Dunaway, who is a local contractor, for our sewage and our trenching. We are using Collins Electrical for the electrical, and then, uh, Connexus Energy, certainly, for the energy aspect of it. They are all ready and geared up to go. And this is the last, uh, as I said, hurdle. Once we do that we will give them the green light to go, and they believe that they can do it, uh, just meeting the deadline which is May 3rd, is the opening day for horsemen to arrive on the track. We, uh, are opening two weeks this year to allow, uh, additional time to train in Minne–Minnesota horses to get ready for the May 17<sup>th</sup> opening day. So, they think it will be two weeks, ten days to two weeks to get it done, so we're just right up, right up on it.

**Preiner:** Thank you.

**Krebs:** One question, Mr. Chair. Um, in the rules that, is that something that goes out to all the horsemen and their staff?

**Ito:** Yes. I believe in your package you may have received some CCNRs or conditions and use, and those are currently published on our website. They were also, uh, each condition or application will be given to the horsemen. We, we have an internal policy for anyone who is bringing a, a trailer park here. They have to submit a picture to us that needs to be approved by myself and the security, uh, our director of security, Robert Ulrich. They need to meet certain, you know, aesthetic requirements. And if they do, then they will bring those on, and then sign this agreement with a deposit and sort of the condition, terms of conditions that you see there. We are also, just for information, we also have rented ten RV trailers from our neighbors, the Coates, and they will be available for rent by horsemen who do not have or cannot obtain a trailer. And those are, those have already been allotted and are waiting, uh, the completion of the trailer park, to be put on the lot by Coates RV. And our, our intention is, this is the first year, and, I think as people become aware of it and understand it and see the value in being located right on the property as opposed to a motel somewhere in Forest Lake or other off-property locations, they will start to bring their own trailers, and I think in the subsequent years we're going to see people actually bringing their own trailers, as long as they meet the, our conditions, um, and I think that's going to save them some money in terms of rent and just convenience.

**Krebs:** And this, again, is part of the obligation to the Minnesota Racing Commission's guidelines or stipulations?

**Ito:** Correct. Correct. They require us to provide housing for horsemen that attend and meet, and, unfortunately, when we first started there wasn't a plan for housing horsemen, which is very unique. Most or almost all tracks in the United States, whether they be thoroughbred or standard

bred, provide free housing to their horsemen as part of sort of the plan, and that wasn't the case here. So we've, this has always been a sort of a unique issue and something that we deal with every year. So, this will, this will hopefully be, uh, a long-term solution to this, uh, ongoing problem.

**Watson:** One question, sir. Um, on the ten units that you're bringing in from Coates, are they going to remain there throughout the year then?

**Ito:** No. Those are just, we've worked out a deal, uh, I think, cross-marketing deal and some, um, some compensation, but they're gonna be a three or four month rentals, but sort of—turns out to be about a 120-day period. So, they're rentals for 120 days and then they were returned to Coates. Most of those were pre-owned units, so they, uh, they weren't new, but certainly they were sufficient for our needs, and I think they worked out to be sort of a win-win for both parties, which I thought was a good thing.

**Watson:** Great. Thank you.

**Sternberg:** Any other questions?

**Watson:** No, sir.

**Sternberg:** Okay, at this time I'm going to open the hearing to the public. Is there anyone from the public that wants to speak? Okay, then I'm going to close the hearing with the right to reopen if it becomes necessary.

Hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary