

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**  
**PUBLIC HEARING IN INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT**  
**INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT**  
**STATUTES SECTION 13D.021**  
**SPECIAL INTERIM USE PERMIT – RUNNING ACES’ EVENT**  
**5-3-2023**

The 5-3-2023 Public Hearing to consider the request for an Interim Use Permit (IUP) to host additional activities and special events at an identified location on premise in the Horse Racing (HR) zoning district. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lynn Carver-Quinn at the City Hall at 6:05 PM. Present were Planning Commission members Barb Bobick, Judy Huntosh and Bethany Barrette, City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Council Planning Commission Liaison Janet Hegland, City Planner Dean Johnson, and Associate Planner Frank Koenen.

Also in attendance were Brooke Olson, Aaron Bedessen, Jon Sawyer, Marcus Lee, Chi and Kia Yang, Ron Hanegraaf, and Jesse Preiner.

In attendance via interactive technology were Joe and Olivia Lefto.

The meeting was held in an interactive technology meeting format.

**Carver-Quinn:** Now we'll open the public hearing. Special use permit for running acs events. Pages 6 through 39 and Frank Canyon. Do you want to give us a report?

Notice was read at this time by Associate Planner Frank Koenen

**Carver-Quinn:** Thank you, Frank. Will the representatives from running acs approach the table? Have a seat. Tell us your name. And your address and make sure you speak into the microphone so we can get you online and everyone here can.

**Aaron Bedessen:** Thank you, Madam Chair and Commissioners. Aaron Bedessen with Running Aces' 15201 Running Aces Blvd, Columbus, MN 55025

**Brooke Olson:** Brooke Olson, also with Running Aces'

**Carver-Quinn:** OK, Is there anything you'd like to go over with us?

**Aaron Bedessen:** So, thank you again. So, the only two things that have changed from what we have done in previous years, so seven years ago I think our original one ended just before COVID or just in COVID. So, we were on a five-year renewal. The only events that have really changed, we have added in two things that are different from previous years. And those would be the last two on here. One of them being a drive-in theater as an option. So, we were toying with this during COVID and then it has come up for some other events this fall, but basically that event would be having a large movie screen and then an FM transmitter within cars, so it will be, you know, like a drive-in movie in our parking lot. We're still working to see how the screen would work. It won't be facing the highway or anything, but just which direction it will be in our parking lot. And the other event would be that we were looking at working with fractional toys as a benefit to our players as something we would want. And basically, with them, it's offering some different rental equipment to our players. So, it would also be used where the public could use those things as well. It's a small amount of toys, like a boat or four-wheeler, it's nothing that

would be taking over our parking lot. It's something we would have on kind of the northern side and that would be the other new thing we're looking at.

The last thing I have is just one kind of correctional thing to have changed that we noticed on the Special IUP recommendations. This would be Page 3. Bullet #10 it says food and beverage to be associated with any special event to be exclusively through running aces for food and alcohol. We have traditionally brought in outside food vendors and licensed food trucks. The alcohol has always stayed exclusively with us and us. Obviously going through and getting the permits for our catering license for alcohol. But just to note that if we can have outside food trucks. So, #10 just being exclusively for alcohol and basically kind of striking the exclusive for food.

**Carver-Quinn:** Frank do you want to give the report?

**Frank Koenen:** Yeah. Yeah. So that would be on the bottom of page 38 of your packet. I believe that is in line with everything in the ordinance, so that should not be an issue. So, I can go ahead and do that then. Just strike that and then add exclusively to alcohol licenses if that is what the Planning Commission would like.

**Elizabeth Mursko:** So the staff, the staff accepts the change.

**Frank Koenen:** So yes, the staff accepts the change.

**Bobick:** What are we doing there? We're striking #10?

**Elizabeth Mursko:** No, the applicant has asked for a change in the verbiage of #10 because they would like to use food trucks. They do not want the food exclusively coming from Running Aces' because at the current time they use food trucks in the parking lot, so he is asking for a change. The staff has accepted that change as we see no issue with having food trucks as a part of the special events permit, it's whether the Planning Commission wants to accept that change.

**Carver-Quinn:** Thank you, Elizabeth.

**Elizabeth Mursko:** I would like to make a clarification for the Planning Commission. This is kind of a unique permit. The reason why we call it a special interim use permit is that it's a little bit of a deviation from what's in the current code. So, today we have interim use permits for a variety of different reasons, and this particular case when Running Aces', came before the Council the first time that they applied for this permit, it was asking whether they could have nonprofits, other organizations use their facilities for a variety of different reasons. And while Running Aces' would allow them to use the facilities, Running Aces' would not necessarily plan the events, but they would host them and others would then be able to use their facilities, whether it was food, bathrooms, liquor and those sorts of things. So it was a good cooperative effort between nonprofits and other amenities, and what they do every day. So we created this special interim use permit to allow them to do that. Over the years they've had, I can't even remember all the different 5K races, and Aaron, you could probably tell them. The one where they dressed up, and then there was other ones that they did that when they came in, like the other one where they had all the different events where you had to go through things and, you know, balls were coming at you while you had to run, I forget what they used to call them, but anyway. Fun types of events

**Aaron Bedessen:** The great inflatable 5k.

**Elizabeth Mursko:** That was it! It the great inflatable 5K. There you go.

But it was it was those type of events. They were mostly nonprofits or nonprofits that that hosted them, but it allowed a forum for it because they have the parking, they have the room for it. And so, it was a really good working relationship with the community and with Running Aces' because they wanted to foster this in the community. So this permit is good for five years and the agreement was Running Aces' would list all of the events they thought they would want and with that we would have an administrative process. So when they want to run these events, we could then process the permit administratively as long as they kept within the confines of all the events that they listed. I got to say it's worked really well over the years. We've really had no issues. I think people have had a lot of fun with all the events they've had there. I think there's been a little hiatus in the last three years, but I know they plan to have events in the future. It's been a, I think, a win-win for everyone who's been involved with these activities. You know, just as a community. So just a little background.

**Carver-Quinn:** OK. Is there any discussions or questions from the commissioners?

**Huntosh:** So I have a question about the ending time of 11:00 PM. Is that how it was in the last event?

**Aaron Bedessen:** On the weekends, that's what we had, Commissioner. It was set at 11. I know we went through many rounds back and forth. That other Planning Commission meetings, probably about 12-13 years ago and as Elizabeth started, it started as a few events, starting with concerts, 5K's things like that, and it's growing into this bigger packet. That includes go Kart races in the parking lot and now a drive-in movie, as we've had different groups with different needs, as times have changed. But the time was set that way as through many discussions on what a fair time would be on a Friday or Saturday evening. And if I can just add one more thing as it pops in my head, and that was also based on findings from what was found around other cities. You know whether it was midnight or 1:00 o'clock and the 11:00 o'clock was what matched or was a little bit tighter than other cities.

**Huntosh:** And that has not been an issue, that time frame?

**Aaron Bedessen:** Not that I'm aware chair and Commissioners, not to our knowledge.

**Frank Koenen:** In the year that I've been here, I haven't heard any issue about that. I know last year I did approve some of those that did have an 11:00 PM end time. So that has been in place before.

**Huntosh:** OK.

**Aaron Bedessen:** The only concern that came up was with muddy paws, the dog facility boarding facility, and the time wasn't necessarily the factor. It was more than music in general, but it wasn't necessarily on the timing.

**Carver-Quinn:** Thank you, at this time, we'll open the public hearing up to the public. If there's anyone that has anything to say regarding this permit.

**Olivia Lefto:** Yes. I actually, thank you for mentioning that Aaron. I'm the owner of Muddy Paws. I actually rent the building space from my dad. This is Joe Lefto. He owns the building property and I rent from him and run my business out of that. We did have a chance this morning to talk with Aaron and Brooke and kind of just express our concerns with the noise of the concert. And just kind of what that would look like for us in the future. I know, you know, we obviously are going to always put the care of our dogs first and last year I'd noticed, you know, the noise was kind of just stressed them out a lot and

our building was shaking throughout the day, so we were trying to come to a consensus on how we can be good neighbors, how they can still operate and do their activities, bring the community together and how we can still always put our dogs first. So we did have a conversation with them and that's why we're present tonight. Anything to add?

**Joe Lefto:** The conversation centered around the impact on the dogs. The responsibility we have to provide notice to the dog owners and the, you know, loss in revenue that is created on those days when they have that event. It was a good meeting, Running Aces' has agreed to, you know, work with us and we will document what happens during those events. They've agreed to work with us and cooperate with us. So in general, we're in favor of these activities as long as we can all be good neighbors during the process.

**Carver-Quinn:** Thank you. Any other comments or concerns?

**Carver-Quinn:** We will now close the public hearing and open the floor to the Planning Commission members.

At this time, Chair Carver-Quinn closed the Public Hearing at 6:19 PM.

*Eleanor Hahn*

Respectfully submitted: Eleanor Hahn, Recording Secretary