

**CITY OF COLUMBUS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT  
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021  
RESIDENTIAL DOG KENNEL IUP  
7538 W BROADWAY AVE  
11-01-2023**

The 11-01-2023 Planning Commission meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order by Commission Chair Lynn Carver-Quinn at the City Hall at 6:04 PM. Present were Planning Commission members Lynn Carver-Quinn, Barb Bobick, Judy Huntosh, and Robin Wood, City Council Liaison Jesse Preiner, City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Planning and Zoning Tech Eleanor Hahn, Janet Hegland, Ron Hanegraaf, and Myra Shear.

In attendance via interactive technology was Planning Commissioner Bethany Barrette.

The meeting was held in an interactive technology meeting format.

**Carver-Quinn:** Eleanor would you read the notice as published in the Forest Lake Times?

**Hahn:** Absolutely.

*At this time the Public Notice was read by Planning and Zoning Technician Eleanor Hahn*

**Carver-Quinn:** Thank you Eleanor. I would, at this time, ask the applicant Myra Shear to please come forward and have a seat at the front table and please give your name and address and make sure you speak into the microphone so everybody online and here can hear you.

**Shear:** Myra Shear. 7538 West Broadway Avenue, Columbus.

**Carver-Quinn:** Okay. The commission reviewed your application as a normal protocol for the record. Could you brief us a little bit about your application?

**Shear:** I am applying for an interim use permit for a residential dog kennel for ten dogs, or up to ten dogs, and this is actually my second IUP. And prior to that I had a license for dogs, as the township I believe it was at that time had that in place. So, all told, I've been, here since 1998 with, my German Shepherds.

**Carver-Quinn:** And for the record, did you receive a copy of the staff report developed by associate planner Eleanor, dated October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, regarding this application? The report notes certain findings numbered one through nineteen on page 35 and 36. It also notes recommendations numbered one through twenty-nine. Do you understand these recommendations and conditions, and do you have any questions?

**Shear:** Yes, I did and I have no questions.

**Carver-Quinn:** Okay. Eleanor will you give us a review?

**Hahn:** Absolutely. So, looking through Myra's application, and being in contact with our animal control people – sorry, one second, I got a little lost. So as Myra stated, she had previously had an IUP for 10 years. As a part of this IUP, there is a yearly check-in where she provides up-to-date rabies vaccinations for all of her animals, and in the midpoint, there is an inspection by the animal control facilities that we contract with. She's been on time with all of those things. The previous IUP did expire last year, in November 2022; however, prior to that she, contacted City Staff and asked for an extension due to extenuating medical reasons. The council agreed to this extension, and that's why she's coming before you now. If you look at the site plans of the property on pages 22 and 23, you can see that the area where the dogs are kept is further than 100 feet from any neighboring residences. The dogs are mostly kept within a pole barn kennel. This pole barn has heat, running water, and electricity, and also outdoor runs. The entire area is enclosed with a chain link fence, and then a wooden privacy fence across the street facing side. The recommendation for this application is pretty standard for all of our residential dog kennel IUPs. They go over all of the best practices for residential dog ownership at this scale. She does have the maximum number of dogs, 10 dogs at one time, however, the size of her lot, which is a little under nine acres, is consistent with our code for that many dogs in that size property.

I do have a couple small corrections to my report that were pointed out to me by both Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Bobick. In Findings of Fact number three, the "120-day review, if necessary, will terminate on February 6<sup>th</sup> of 2024" not 2023. And the next finding of fact, finding of fact number four, as I explained previously, the previous IUP expired on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, not 2023. Then finally, in the recommendations, I had repeated recommendation 20 and 23. So, 23 will be removed, and it will be recommendations 1 through 28, so as not repeat myself. Does anyone have any questions about this for me?

**Mursko:** What's your recommendation?

**Hahn:** Oh, my staff recommendation would be to recommend approval of this IUP. I see no issues with it.

**Carver-Quinn:** Ok, thank you. Now I would like to open up the floor to the Commissioners to see if they have any questions for the applicant.

**Bobick:** Um, this is Barb. I really appreciate you allowing us to come out to the property and you were very gracious, and showing us the buildings and the dogs, and they're absolutely beautiful. And I don't know how you managed to take such good care of them. It's got to be a lot of hard work, but thank you.

**Carver-Quinn:** We did, Barbara and I did go out there. We did discuss the, um, 10 dogs and if she had any, you know, thoughts of breeding in the near future. She totally understands that she can only have 10 with this IUP. This was incredible so I see, I mean we did have quite a long discussion about different things, and if ever you breed again and you're going to keep one, I'll take Violet. Violet is such a sweetheart. And I have no problem with this.

**Barrette:** Clearly, she's been thorough, in like every aspect if every – yeah, I'm always going to side with animal people who want to have animals, but also I think she's done a great job, so I have no issue whatsoever

**Carver-Quinn:** Great. Then is there anybody in the audience that would like to discuss this, or online other than Bethany?

**Huntosh:** So, I do have one question. Has there been any neighbor interaction, concerns with your property?

**Shear:** No. Nobody's interacted with me in a negative way. I mean, they haven't.

**Hahn:** There has also been no reported, um, animal complaints to the Sheriff's Office about this particular property.

**Huntosh:** Thank you.

**Carver-Quinn:** Okay, with no one coming forward, we will now close the public hearing, and open the floor to the Planning Commission for the discussion of the application.

At this time, Chair Carver-Quinn closed the Public Hearing. Hearing closed at 6:13.

*Eleanor Hahn*

Respectfully submitted, Recording Secretary Eleanor Hahn