

**City of Columbus**  
**Public Hearing – 15201 Zurich Street - Running Aces Harness Park - Special Events IUP**  
**(PC-17-108)**  
**June 7, 2017**

The June 7, 2017 Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding an Interim Use Permit (IUP) in the HR District to hold events and activities at Running Aces Casino and Racetrack was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Jim Watson, Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council members Denny Peterson, and Bill Krebs; Amy and Troy Lund, Jeff Brown, Stacey Jensen and Aaron Bedessem of Running Aces, Brent Kinder, Mary Kinder, Brian Kinder, Andrew Landstrom, Pat Preiner and Jim Windingstad.

**Sternberg:** So now we have another Public Hearing and discussion for 15201 Zurich Street IUP, pages 39 through 66. And, at this time, I'd like to ask the recording secretary to read the notice as published.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

**Sternberg:** Thank you. And if you guys could just state your name and address for the record.

**Bedessem:** Aaron Bedessem, 15201 Running Aces Boulevard.

**Jensen:** Stacey Jensen, 15201 Running Aces Boulevard.

**Sternberg:** Thank you. And if you can just give us a little background on . . .

**Bedessem:** Yeah. So we're here—like Mr. Peterson before us—this is our five-year renewal. Uh, yeah, Stacey will go over some of the events.

**Jensen:** Yeah, a lot of you have probably seen some of the events, but some of the events that we like to hold and we have held in the past, include vendor shows, things like Cruise for the Troops, um, 5K runs, um, we hold events in our barns. We have a really exciting vintage market coming through in October, which is expected to bring about 3000 people, that they're renting out the barns. Um, we've held pet expos, um,--I'm trying to think—some smaller concerts that we want to put out into the parking lot. Um, we are pairing with the, um, Special Olympics. Other years we've had a convoy that's starting in our parking lot, that they want to start in September. So, um, we're just going to continue to build us as an entertainment destination, and bring special events to Columbus.

**Mursko:** To give the Planning Commission a little background, uh, when Running Aces first started, it, um, permit process with a conditional use permit, they, um, conditional use permit was for the actual activity of the, the card room and the racetrack activities. But, aside from that, Running Aces wanted to give opportunities to other groups to use their parking lot for certain activities, whether it was car shows, 5K races, um, and such. And so, we came up with a program and, when we first started, first it was for one year, and then they renewed it again, and it was for two years, I think. And then they came back and said, ‘Well, maybe we can do it for a longer period of time.’ And we said, ‘Okay, how about five years?’ And so, now it’s been five years, and Stacey and I said the same thing: ‘Has it really been five years?’ because it seemed like we just did this. So, it’s gone really fast. And so we’ve come up with an administrative process that, um, they submit an application to me. We have a checklist; we go through the checklist to make sure that they meet all the conditions of the code. And then, if there’s any other conditions that need to be set, we go over them with them and they comply, and then the event happens. Um, we notify the Sheriff’s Department about the event, because it’s out of the norm of the regular business hours. And it could be on Saturdays, it could be at night, it could be during the day, but generally, it’s during the day on the weekends that these events occur. We’ve had no issues to date, that I’m aware of. I think most of the events have gone rather smoothly. Some events have grown; some have shrunk. But, I think overall, they’ve been very positive.

**Wolowski:** Have you ever had a concert in the parking lot?

**Jensen:** We have smaller—so part of Cruise for the Troops, and part of some of those car show events have had DJs and bands in the parking lot. Certainly nothing from a national level. Um, but yes, we have had like live music and things like that in the parking lot, and it’s always worked really, really well—just from a stage perspective, a parking perspective, and then the sound as well. We’re able to really drown out a lot of the sound, um, having it in the parking lot next to the highway there.

**Bedessem:** Then we can point the speakers towards the highway, instead of coming at the building.

**Jensen:** Yeah, bouncing off the building.

**Bedessem:** And the goal with that would be also, doing a show in the summer, with the track being our number one feature, it’s really tough to bring in a stage for a one-night. Those guys setting up for 20 hours, or you know, all the way around the clock, just to get it up, and it’s pretty labor intensive.

**Jensen:** Production is killing us. To bring everything in, to set stuff up in less than 24 hours. Whereas the parking lot gives us a lot more leeway to do events that have a music aspect.

**Wolowski:** Thank you.

**Sternberg:** Any other questions?

**Bedessem:** The only thing we'd just like to bring up too, on this . . .

**Sternberg:** Sure.

**Bedessem:** . . . Special IUP Recommendations. Number 10.

**Wolowski:** What page are you on there?

**Bedessem:** I'm on page four.

**Wolowski:** Okay. Thank you. Oh, on ours?

**Watson:** Sixty-four.

**Wolowski:** Thank you.

**Bedessem:** The section on beverage services.

**Mursko:** Did you say number 10?

**Bedessem:** Correct. So, on that one, it says, 'Food and beverage services associated with any approved special event to be exclusively through us.' Um, we've had it—it kind of contradicts it in here, because food, we bring in outside food vendors. But the alcoholic beverage is being exclusively through us. So, I think this one just got a little mixed up, as we have and would like to continue to use some vendors, but the alcoholic beverages being exclusively through us.

**Sternberg:** So, you'd like to omit the food?

**Bedessem:** Correct. Yup. Any of the just alcoholic beverage services can be added in there.

**Sternberg:** Yeah.

**Mursko:** So you use licensed vendors, but they're not necessarily Running Ace vendors? Correct?

**Bedessem:** Correct.

**Mursko:** Okay.

**Bedessem:** And I believe it says that in there, one of these points, that a licensed food--

**Jensen:** Yeah. There was, it was in here . . . wait. One of these points had in here licensed vendors.

**Bedessem:** So in number nine—uh, sorry—it says, ‘Some of the events may include tents for vendors, food and beverage services . . .’ and then, we would include—we have operated this way, and, I think it had it before that, we’re allowed to have some outside food vendors come in, as long as they’re licensed.

**Mursko:** Okay.

**Sternberg:** Any other questions, or . . .?

**Mursko:** Does the Planning Commission accept that amendment?

**Sternberg:** I’m fine with that, aren’t you? I mean if they’re licensed food vendors, and they’re in charge of the alcohol.

**Krebs:** Yeah. They’re taking the liability anyway, contracting with them. It’s not us.

**Sternberg:** So, if there’s no further questions, I’m going to open the hearing to the public. Is there anyone here from the public that wants to speak? Anyone? Okay. I’m going to close the hearing with the right to reopen.

Hearing closed at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary