



Rowan County Planning and Development Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Edds and Rowan County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Aaron Poplin, Planner
DATE: June 10, 2022
RE: **PE 01-22**

SUGGESTED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACTION

- ☐ Receive staff report ☐ Receive public comments
☐ Discuss request ☐ Approve / Deny / Table **PE 01-22**

REQUEST

The Rowan County Chamber of Commerce is requesting a Permit to Exceed for the eighth annual Rowan Chamber Dragon Boat Festival on July 23rd, 2022 at the Shrine Club, 6480 Long Ferry Rd, on High Rock Lake. The Dragon boat races are part of a day-long lakeside festival that will raise money for small business programs here in Rowan County. The applicant expects the festival to attract around 3,000 people.

According to Section 14-10 of the Noise Ordinance, *"It shall be unlawful for any person, group, event or business to play, use or otherwise operate any sound amplification equipment (to include radio, tape player, stereos, etc.) emitting sound that is unreasonable, frequent and continued with such volume at any time on any given day of the week, in a manner which may annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of the general public. This provision is applicable when the source of the noise is plainly audible to the responding law enforcement officer at a distance of one hundred (100) feet."*

However, Section 14-12 provides an opportunity to exceed the amplified sound standards in the form of a "permit to exceed" when the event is open to the public.

APPLICATION REVIEW

As provided in Section 14-12 (c) of the Rowan County Noise Ordinance, the following criteria shall be considered in issuing or denying an application for a permit to exceed:

1. The timeliness of the application
Finding: Planning Staff received this application on May 24th well in advance for consideration on June 20th.
2. The nature of the requested activity
Finding: This event is a lakeside festival with boat races, games, and food vendors.
3. Previous experience with the applicant.
Finding: This is the eighth annual Dragon Boat festival hosted by the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. The only issues in years past are an increase in vehicle traffic in the area. In 2015 an additional parking area, with trolley shuttle, was added at the corner of Long Ferry Rd and Hedrick Lambe Drive to alleviate parking issues.
4. The time of the event.
Finding: The event will begin on Saturday July 23rd at 8:00am, and end at 4:00pm the same day.
5. Other activities in the vicinity of the proposed event.
Finding: None to knowledge.
6. Frequency of the event.
Finding: Annually.
7. Cultural or social benefits of the proposed event.
Finding: The applicant expects to attract an estimated 3,000 people in hopes of raising money for Rowan County Chamber of Commerce small business programs.
8. The effect of the activity on any adjacent residential area.
Finding: see attached map of area properties.
9. Previous violations, if any, by the applicant.
Finding: None.
10. Adjoining property owners surrounding the location are notified by the Planning Department or applicant at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

Finding: The Planning Department provided mailed notice to property owners within 100 feet of the event and posted a sign on June 9th regarding this application (11 days notice before the BOC meeting and six weeks before the event).

STAFF COMMENTS

Based on the above 10 standards, this application meets all necessary criteria for approval.