



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
DECEMBER 22, 2014

PRESENT: Scott Hege, Commission Chair
Rod Runyon, County Commissioner
Steve Kramer, County Commissioner

STAFF: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer
Kathy White, Executive Assistant
John Roberts, Former Wasco County Planning Director
Angie Brewer, Interim Wasco County Planning Director

At 5:30 p.m. Chair Hege opened the public hearing.

Outdoor Mass Gathering Permit Application – Moonshine LLC

Chair Hege began by explaining the process for the hearing – Staff Presentation, Applicant Presentation, Public Testimony, Deliberations.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Former Wasco County Planning Director John Roberts explained that he had only left his employment with the County last week; being the most familiar with the application and had agreed to return to assist Interim Director Angie Brewer with the staff presentation. He stated that this is the 4th event for this applicant. He observed that the applicant has been very responsive and willing to engage with the community. He noted that the last two application hearings included some

contention and public opposition; this year only one comment has been submitted which leads the Planning Department to believe that there is a level of acceptance within the community – that will allow for a simple and straightforward presentation.

Mr. Roberts explained that this is not a land use decision – because of that, planning departments do not have to process the applications. Although Wasco County has chosen to handle them through their planning department – other counties may use Parks and Recreation or other departments to process OMG applications. He reminded the Board that the statute's wording is that the County SHALL approve applications if they meet all the criteria of the statute. He stated that his department has been following all the OARs for this process and believe that all the criteria have been met.

Mr. Roberts went on to say that Wasco County has exceeded requirements for noticing and transparency and have had good communications with partner organizations. He said that there are no comments on noise in the staff report but it is included in the recommended conditions of approval – following the same criteria that were enforced for last year's application. He noted that last year the applicant and event coordinator invited people in the community to attend an open house at the event so they could observe first hand. Mr. Roberts stated that he had attended and found it to be run very professionally – he is encouraging the planning staff to do a site visit this year to see how it is run.

Chair Hege said that in the letters from Mr. Thomas, case law is referenced and asked if there is cause for concern. Mr. Roberts said he does not believe so but he is confident that the applicant's attorney will address that issue.

APPLICANT PRESENTATION

Glenn Boyd, applicant and managing member of Moonshine LLC, came forward with Counsel Elaine Albridge. Mr. Boyd thanked the Board for their time and stated that his organization wants to be a continuing member of the community. He said that they have responded to the issues raised in previous years by changing the event to address community concerns. He said he has received a lot of positive comment from the community and is relieved to not have any issues being brought forth this year.

Ms. Albridge said that Mr. Thomas' letter inappropriately sites cases and does not raise any new legal issues that have not already been addressed. She added that he is talking about constitutional arguments that are not applicable here.

Commissioner Runyon stated that the after-action report from the last event was positive. Mr. Boyd agreed, saying that the Sheriff was very responsive. There were one or two medical transports – a campsite skin burn and a heart problem. He reminded the board that they have a full standby ambulance onsite. He added that there were two noise complaints but both were registered before the midnight noise curfew and there were no complaints after that time. He stated that there will still be music after midnight but it will not be amplified. He said that the silent disco had been very successful.

Chair Hege asked about fire precautions. Mr. Boyd said that there is a fire crew onsite that responds to all reports. He stated that they will not be allowing any camp stoves in the tenting areas.

Chair Hege asked if there will be any other changes. Mr. Boyd replied that they hope to increase attendance and will expand some of the designated smoking areas – they want to make sure people are comfortable so they are not tempted to try to smoke outside of the designated areas.

Chair Hege asked about the economic impact. Mr. Boyd responded that there is another impact study being undertaken. He stated that they spend tens of thousands of dollars in the community as well as temporary employment to prepare the site. He pointed out that in addition to their investment, attendees spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in the county; most attendees come from outside the state.

Chair Hege asked how the open house site visit had gone. Mr. Boyd replied that they had held an open house on both Saturday and Sunday for 4-6 hours so people would have a better understanding of the event. He said that they had positive feedback from those who participated in the open house. Chair Hege said he had attended the open house and found it to be a good experience; he appreciated the opportunity. Mr. Boyd said that they plan to do that again this year.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chair Hege called for public testimony in support of the application. There was none.

Chair Hege called for public testimony in opposition to the application. There was none.

DELIBERATIONS

{{{Commissioner Runyon moved to approve Order 14-120 approving the Moonshine LLC application for an Outdoor Mass Gathering consisting of a music and arts festival June 18-22, 2015 on Wolf Run Ranch. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.}}}

Chair Hege closed the hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Summary of Actions

Motions Passed

- To approve Order 14-120 approving the Moonshine LLC application for an Outdoor Mass Gathering consisting of a music and arts festival June 18-22, 2015 on Wolf Run Ranch.

WASCO COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Absent

Scott Hege, Commission Chair

Rod Runyon

Rod Runyon, County Commissioner

Steve Kramer

Steve Kramer, County Commissioner