

**CASE NO. PZ 14-15B**

PUBLIC HEARING on the request of Exposition Gardens to host the Peace Brothers Motorcycle Rodeo event on August 23, 2014, at Exposition Gardens located at 1601 W. Northmoor Road (Council District 4).

Leah Allison, Senior Urban Planner, Community Development Department, read Case No. PZ 14-15B into the record, and presented details of the request to host a motorcycle rodeo event in the arena building at Exposition Gardens. In 1989, a Special Exception for fair grounds was granted by City Council. In 2013, City Council approved a Special Use which amended the Special Exception and included a condition which states there can be no additional internal combustion motors or amplified events outside of buildings without prior approval from City Council.

She reported staff does not object to the request subject to the following conditions, which were included with the Special Use approval:

1. A berm must be constructed along the west property line adjacent to the camp grounds.
2. Amplified or speaker systems for announcement purposes must be directed to the east or away from the immediate residential properties.

Leslie Leach, representing Exposition Gardens, said Exposition Gardens is a not-for-profit entity, and hosting the Heart of Illinois Fair nine days a year does not pay the bills. He said this one-day-only event is from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the arena building, where children and adults will race motorcycles from one end of the arena building to the other. Each race will last three minutes in length, for a total of ninety minutes. He said Exposition Gardens has three years to establish a berm.

Louie Smith, representing the Peace Brothers Motorcycle Club, said this event is all about having fun, from start to finish, He said helmets are worn, and EMTs are on standby. His club uses the money from these types of events to support the community, i.e. Children's Home, nursing homes, local football teams, etc.

Susan Naschert, 6231 N. Fairlane Drive, representing the neighborhood association, said she is disappointed they are dealing with this issue again. She said noise that comes from Exposition Gardens into the neighborhoods exceeds legal limits, and they need to invest in appropriate noise pollution barriers. She said the berm is only a visual response. Ms. Naschert said Exposition Gardens has a long history of noncompliance with OSHA requirements and if they are allowed to proceed with this activity, she will monitor the noise and file a complaint with the Illinois Board of Pollution if legal levels are exceeded.

Don Naschert, 6231 N. Fairlane Drive, said that although he thinks this activity is honorable, the issue is noise pollution. Mr. Naschert said Exposition Gardens started out as a place where just the fair was held, but over time more and more events have been added.

Leah Allison read three letters into the record; two were opposed, and one was in favor of the event.

There being no more testimony, Commissioner Misselhorn closed the public hearing.

Motion:

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to discuss the case; seconded by Commissioner Unes.

The motion was approved unanimously by viva voce vote 5 to 0.

Commissioner Misselhorn said unless there are quantifiable guidelines, it is hard to establish criteria. Commissioner Durand recommended staff establish standards for future events.

Motion:

Commissioner Durand made a motion to approve staff recommendations with a recommendation for a sound study during the event; seconded by Commissioner Durand.

The motion was approved unanimously by viva voce vote 5 to 0.