

Re: Festival Permit Changes - Written Comment

EXHIBIT NO.: 13
DATE:2.22.22
FILE NO.: LRN2019-00010

Cody Beebe <cody@chinookfest.com>

Tue 2/22/2022 8:31 AM

To: Olivia Story <olivia.story@co.yakima.wa.us>; Dawn Gardner <dawn@chinookfest.com>

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello Olivia,

Thank you for your response. My notes are below:

Thank you for taking our comments into consideration. I believe that Chinook Fest is one of only two events in Yakima County that, up until this point, has been required to submit the festival application. A few years ago, we worked with the county commissioners to adjust some of the verbiage in the code, following feedback that was sent by a few neighboring properties. The county was extremely fair and took our position into account, to which we are thankful. With 10 years of experience under our belt, we feel we have a good idea of what it takes to do an event in the county safely and in accordance with the codes set forth. However, there are a few areas in the verbiage that I believe might be overly limiting to the success of future events.

8.10.095 - Temporary Structures

"All temporary facilities or structures shall be completed no more than five days before the event."

For our event and any others that are nearing the 500 person limit that requires this permit to be in place, this rule should suffice. However, this would be extremely limiting to any larger scale events that may want to come to the county. We understand that leaving infrastructure set up for long periods of time can be unnecessary, but events that draw more than a few thousand people that plan to stay for multiple days may need longer than a working week to setup. In the case of a renaissance fair or even larger music festivals, typical those events take 2-3 weeks to setup, if not more. This time ensures that infrastructure is built correctly and safely and is not "rushed" into place. I believe that large scale events that are done safely are a huge asset to the community, businesses in the area, and the tourism as a whole in the county.... bringing much needed positive attention and revenue to the area. I would hope that our code would allow these events to proceed and make it possible to do so. **My recommendation would be to increase this time period to two weeks.**

8.10.120 - Age of Patrons

"No person under the age of eighteen years shall be admitted to any outdoor festival without the escort of his or her parents or legal guardian and proof of age shall be provided upon request."

This is a tricky one. Chinook Fest is 21+ and we set it up that way intentionally. However, we have an example of another event that would be negatively impacted. We have been in talks with another promoter that wants our help to bring a Christian festival to the county in order to provide at-risk youth with an event that is safe and will help keep them on a positive path in life. They specifically feel that middle-school aged kids are most in need of something like this. If this code applies, how would youth leaders or churches bring their student populations to the festival without parents accompanying each of them? What if a 16 year old that has their own car and driver's license wants to attend? The rest of the festival code has so many areas that ensure the health and safety of the public that I feel are sufficient to protect young people who attend events, if done correctly. **I would suggest that there be some sort of variance that would allow chaperones that have written permission of the parents to accompany the minors.** I'm also inclined to say the minimum unaccompanied age would be 16. Lastly, I think it would be a positive step to **allow certain festivals to apply for "all ages" status that would perhaps require the producers to put a few more safety measures in place to be able to have minors**

without parents on site. Again, I know this is a tricky one, but the current verbiage really makes it hard to have all-ages events... so most of the events around the valley tend to only be for adults. We need more events that culturally enrich our youth because there is an extreme lack of things to do for them in the valley... which can lead to trouble. We need to do our best to give them fun opportunities to learn and experience, while keeping them safe. Tall order, I know!

Thanks for your time and consideration!

On Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 7:45 AM Olivia Story <olivia.story@co.yakima.wa.us> wrote:

Hi Cody,

You can email them directly to me and I will ensure the Planning Commission receives it.

Olivia Story
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This email and replies to it are subject to public disclosure under Washington state statute (RCW 42.56 – Public Records Act).

From: Cody Beebe <cody@chinookfest.com>
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Olivia Story
Subject: Festival Permit Changes - Written Comment

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hey Olivia,
I'm hoping you can point me in the right direction where I can submit written comment regarding the proposed changes to the festival permit.
Thank you,
Cody

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