

**Planning Commission Meeting Sunrise Township
Royal Wilcox Community Center, Sunrise
Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

The Sunrise Township Planning Commission meeting was called to order by 2013 Chairperson Greg Strom at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Planning Commission Members Present:

Greg Strom Clerk: Wendy Kowalke
Tom Chaklos ex-officio: Jeske Noordergraaf
Charlotte Wilcox

Planning Commission Member Absent:

Charles (Chuck) Sinn
Delano Olson

Others Present:

Brian J. Geisbauer	Jeffrey D. Lukanen	Dayna Geisbauer
Kay Rorvick	Marv Rorvick	Gerald Geisbauer
Chris Geisbauer	Thomas Boyce	Hardy Boyce
Garry Rehn	Roger Anderson	Kathy August
Jeff August	Anthony Klanderud	Nicole Klanderud
Jeske Noordergraaf	Eric Leivien	

Ring Bell: Bell was run by Marv Rorvick.

Adopt Meeting Agenda: Motion by Tom Chaklos, second by Charlotte Wilcox, to adopt the June 2014 meeting Agenda. Motion carried.

Appoint Chair: Charlotte Wilcox cast a white ballot to have Greg Strom as Chair. Motion carried.

Appoint Vice Chair: Motion by Tom Chaklos to nominate Charlotte Wilcox for Vice Chair, hearing no other nominations. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes approval of December 2013: Motion by Charlotte Wilcox, second by Tom Chaklos to accept the December 2013 meeting minutes (December 2013 was the last meeting held by the Sunrise Planning Commission). Motion carried.

Citizens Forum:

Hardy Boyce (Poor Farm Road): Mr. Boyce lives directly east of Mr. August. Mr. Boyce said he has a wood buffer. Mr. Boyce said that Mr. August has made mounted shooting organized. Mr. Boyce said shooting starts way too early in the morning and continues into the late evening. The noise is infringing on neighbors and something needs to be done.

Marv Rorvick (Oasis Road): Mr. Rorvick said the biggest issue is to be able to have some peace and quiet. Mr. August needs to follow a process. Mr. Rorvick said there are noise regulations to be adhered to by Chisago County. Young children being disturbed in late night hours due to the partying. Mr. Rorvick said he was an investigator with the Hennepin Co. and a retired police officer. Neighbors need to be taken into consideration.

Nikki Klanderud (Poor Farm Road): Mrs. Klanderud said this is not a personal attack against Jeff and his family. Their families helped each other back and forth. Mrs. Klanderud said this is about the large scale events that Mr. August is now holding with the Triple X Mounted Shooting Club. A crowd's nest and arena have now been built. The Mounted Shooting is very noise intrusive to area. Items of concern include the condition and maintenance of the road, property values in the area will decline which will be a detriment to the properties in this area. Right now weekend events are at least 2 to 3 days in length. Mrs. Klanderud said that there is 2 to 3 rounds per shooter with over 2000 rounds that are being shot over the weekend as well as the loudspeaker. Mrs. Klanderud wanted to give Jeff the neighborly respect for the use of his land, but this organized Club is taking it to the next level. There are 10 weekends scheduled out of 14.

Denise Calhoun (River Road): There is concern with the amount of land that can be used for this. The more it grows there are more events and more noise. You chose to live out here for a reason. We are not in a business environment, we are in an agricultural environment.

Tony Klanderud (Poor Farm Road). Mr. Klanderud said Jeff August has advertised camping, which is primitive campground, ie pasture. Activities are going throughout the night time hours.

Brian Geisbauer (Poor Farm Road): Mr. Geisbauer said he is a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment and believes you should be able to shoot your guns, but take neighbors into consideration. Mr. Geisbauer said there is constant noise during the weekend. Mr. Geisbauer said he never complained about shooting until it turned into a business with constant noise throughout the day and night time hours. It has gone beyond recreation. You can hear loudspeakers very clear that he could recite participant times. Property values are going to be depleted because of the weekend prospective buyers. Mr. Geisbauer was unaware that Mr. August was starting this high scale business adventure. There is no buffer to contain the noise, dust, and traffic.

Dana Geisbauer (Poor Farm Road): Mrs. Geisbauer said there will be a direct negative impact on the neighborhood, roads, property levels, excessive level of business. Neighbors reached out to the County in January, 2014. Mr. August did not reach out to the county for proper permitting. Mr. August owes his neighbors respect. We have been very respectful to Mr. August. There is plenty of saddle clubs and arenas where these events can be completed. It is unfortunate that this has gone to this level. No neighbor wants to be disrespectful. This has not been at this level until 2014. Chisago County contacted Mr. August in May 2014.

Jeff Lukanen – Unequivocally opposed. Mr. Lukanen travels during the week. Mr. Lukanen said he can hear the loudspeaker in his home with his windows closed. Mr. Lukanen called county sheriff. Mr. August is at a loss why there have been no complaints until now. Mr. Lukanen said he didn't sign on for 2000 rounds a day, a loudspeaker, a carnival and camping in his neighborhood. Mr. Lukanen questions why he is allowed to operate a commercial enterprise in agricultural living. It has been recreation shooting. Believes he needs to be stopped immediately. Mr. August does not have a permit and is still allowed to continue. This is grossly out of character for the use of this land in this area. Mr. Lukanen asked whose birthday it was. Jeff August answered and said it was his wife's birthday. Mr. Lukanen said that singing the birthday song was very nice since he could hear every word in the morning while he was having his coffee with the windows closed in his house. Will go on record.

Ben Geisbauer (Wilcox Road): Immediately affects me when I hunt, tranquility and nature. The noise level and the irritation of that level throughout the day. It doesn't stop, it persists, and is very hard to enjoy yourself.

Jeff August: I did forget to talk to neighbors. He has been asked to adjust operation. The arena is 150 by 300. It is made out of wood instead of t-posts for safety. I apologize for making it difficult for all of us. Noise is no worse than the gravel trucks going up and down the road. Camping is typically 2 nights a week – Friday and Saturday, no electric, no sewer hookup, no water. Self contained. Mr. August would like to still hold shoots. Mr. August said he makes \$5 per person and the rest stays with the club. Does not charge anything for spectators. Clinics do have a cost. Mr. August said he is not going to put in lights. There was a question posed of why the need for the loudspeaker. For the participates to hear their name and times. The public asked why contestants wear ear plugs and the rest of the neighborhood has to put up with the acoustic trauma. Mr. August said there is a permit currently in process at the Chisago County.

Kathy August: Mrs. August said she is truly sorry this has affected the neighborhood. Mrs. August did not anticipate that they would have this many shoots. Wants to have discussion.

Jeff Lukanen: Mr. Lukanen said he does not believe the Augusts are sorry.

Gerald Geisbauer: Bought property and is now not going to build a house because of this. Belongs to a gun club in Harris. Mr. August does not have any sound barrier. This is loud and disruptive. Was going to build a retirement home, but now rethinking. Neighbors have kids that are unable to take naps because of the noise. This is the wrong format for what Mr. August is doing.

Jeff August – CUP – Commercial Outdoor Recreation Mounted Shooter Equestrian

Competitions: Greg Strom explained to the citizens that were present that Sunrise Township is under county jurisdiction. Chisago County does consider townships an important part of the process. Conditional Use Permits are applied for at the County level. Chisago County then forwards the CUP to the town planning commission. The town planning commission makes recommendations to be forwarded to the Town Board. The Town Board will take into account the planning commission recommendations and may make revisions which are then forwarded back to Chisago County Environmental Services/Zoning which provides this information to the County Planning Commission to go to the Board of Commissioners. Townships are the county's eyes and ears. Mr. August's activity requires a CUP because it is not allowed in agricultural zoning. Greg Strom went over number 1 through 8 under section C. The

Greg Strom doesn't understand why permission wasn't sought by Mr. August at the very beginning. Why the county wasn't notified. Greg Strom looked at website of Triple X Mounted Shooting by Jeff August and there are 24 events planned this year. This is not the type of neighborhood that you can go and shoot in your back yard. A reasonable compromise would be to have each member take turns with the members of their club to hold an event for their club members.

What are minimum hours: Mr. August said that hours are from approximately 10:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Saturdays are longer because of another event. There are 25 riders. The rifle is a louder shot. There is also shooting in the evening on Saturday. Neighbors of Jeff August said that the Saturday before Mother's Day ran into the evening around 8:30 to 9:10 p.m.

A range finder was used which measured around 500 feet to the neighbor's yards.
Competitors compete in stages. There are 800 rounds being shot not including practice.
Mr. August said he is a licensed EMT.
Competitors pay an entry fee.
Neighbors are wanting to get a tax reduction.

A suggestion was made to have only 2 weekends of the year and only 1 of those weekends can be a holiday weekend along with restricting the hours. Special permit for camping through the county. burning permits, campfires, etc. should be met. Other suggestions made were to have a results table instead of a loudspeaker, have decibels rated.

Motion by Tom Chaklos, second by Charlotte Wilcox, to allow 2 events per calendar year, one being a non-holiday weekend. Hours of shooting to be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. P.A. only to be used for emergencies. Applicant to have insurance, and have a medical staff with needed medical supplies on hand. All county ordinances be met including health and sanitation regulations, camping ordinances, noise regulations. Any necessary road maintenance due to the events be paid for by the applicant. Motion carried.

Motion by Charlotte Wilcox, second by Tom Chaklos to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Attest: Wendy Kowalke, Clerk

Chairman, Greg Strom