



The City That Soars!

REQUEST FOR PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

Meeting Date	September 25, 2012
Agenda Item	Workshop
Title	Special Event Ordinance Public Input Gathering: Part I - Businesses
Submitted By	Deborah Jones, Staff Liaison

Description	In response to inquiries received from local businesses, the City Council has requested that Planning Commission provide a recommendation regarding the adoption of an ordinance regulating special events in the City. The Planning Commission has invited city businesses to describe the events they would like to host, sponsor or produce.
Background	<p>The City has been approached by three food service related businesses – Stout’s Pub, The Coffee Grounds, and Dino’s Gyros – inquiring whether these businesses would be allowed to host some variation of tented event, such as a “beer garden”, on a limited basis. That is, they are interested in doing this as a one-time or occasional or annual event.</p> <p>The city code does not make any provision for this type of event. The city attorney confirms that it is not allowed. Many cities have special event ordinances to allow events under special permits. The City Council has asked the Planning Commission to study the issue and make a recommendation.</p> <p>At the July 24 workshop, Commissioners directed staff to invite Falcon Heights businesses to attend a September workshop to communicate their event ideas directly to the Commission. As of September 20, staff received three RSVPs. Follow-up calls have been placed to businesses that had already expressed an interest but not yet responded.</p>
Budget Impact	None at this time
Attachment(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 7 letter sent to 36 Falcon Heights businesses that operate in commercial zones. Staff recommends that Commissioners bring the materials that have been distributed in earlier workshop packets on this topic for reference. Please let staff know if new paper copies are needed.
Action(s) Requested	Prepare to listen to presenters and ask questions. Attendees have been asked to keep their presentations to no more than 5 minutes, after which Commissioners can ask questions for 5 to 10 minutes. The small number of participants will allow a forum format for the discussion. Because of other business, Commissioners are respectfully asked to bring this workshop to a close by 8:00 p.m.



CITY OF
FALCON HEIGHTS

2077 W. Larpenteur Avenue
Falcon Heights, MN 55113-5594

email: mail@falconheights.org
website: www.falconheights.org

The City That Soars!

Phone - (651) 792-7600
Fax - (651) 792-7610

September 7, 2012

Dear Business Owner

The City of Falcon Heights has been approached by several local businesses interested in holding outdoor events and other special events that are beyond the scope of our current code and, therefore, not permitted in the city at this time. Some examples of these events are

- Serving food and beverages outside a restaurant in a tent in the parking lot as a special promotion on one weekend
- Holding a special outdoor tent sale that does not fit the existing sidewalk sale ordinance
- Using a parking area to hold a community party or cultural event in cooperation with neighborhood and community organizations

The Planning Commission has undertaken a study of special event ordinances and permits in other cities in order to learn how cities manage special events and provide for public health and safety while minimizing extra demands on city resources and disturbance to neighborhoods. In order to determine if adopting such an ordinance is in the best interest of the community and to tailor an ordinance to the specific character of Falcon Heights, the Commission would like to learn more about what local businesses are interested in doing.

If your business has considered hosting a special event that is not allowed now, we would like to invite you or a representative to attend the upcoming Planning Commission workshop at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25, to outline your ideas and goals for your event.

Because of limited time and space, we request a response to this invitation. Please RSVP to me using the contact information below. Please plan on a presentation not to exceed five minutes. Time will be allowed for Commissioners to ask questions after each presentation.

Thank you for your interest.

Deborah Jones
Zoning and Planning Director
Deb.jones@falconheights.org
651-792-7613

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