
MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor Walker and Councilors
FROM: Stacy Marquardt, Community Development Planner
SUBJECT: **Blue Ribbon Events MN Special Event Permit**
DATE: May 10, 2023

Background:

Staff have met with owner of Blue-Ribbon Events to discuss the craft fair for Rum River Festival. She is applying to have it Thursday, Friday and Saturday (June 8, 9, and 10th) during Rum River Festival. It will be located within the red outlined area on the attached map.

As the Council knows, the Farmer's Market is on Saturday mornings. Stephanie, the owner, is aware that she may not be able to have her event on Saturday morning because of this but regardless would still like to have her event on Thursday and Friday of Rum River Festival. Staff met with the Farmer's Market; however, they were not amendable with comingling in the area set aside in red on the attached map. Staff also met with Neighbor's and because of his infrastructure and lack of staffing unfortunately will not be able to move the fencing, tables and tent to accommodate the farmer's market. The top of the fence is one piece linked together so if you take once section off the fence falls. Also, part of his tent and beer truck will be in this area and the tent is staked into the ground. He also was concerned about the security of his infrastructure, which is understandable. Joe did express that he would like to work with all parties to make Rum River Festival a success but this year is the first year to gauge how things need to be laid out, etc. and maybe next year he can tweak things if needed.

We understand the Farmer's Market has been operating in that parking lot for years, however we were unable to locate an actual agreement on the parameters the Council approved for their operation. We did find an outline of rules from 2011 that states they must be granted approval every year to operate, which they have not been getting this approval. After Rum River Festival, Staff would like to discuss our agreement again for the use of our City owned parking lot as we believe going forward this conflict may arise more often now that we have Tourism as a focus of our City.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that:

The City Council approves the craft fair as outlined in the attached application and map with the condition that Blue Ribbon Events would only be able to operate the craft fair in this location on Thursday and Friday (June 8th and 9th 2023) of the Rum River Festival.