

**KENDALL COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

*Kendall County Office Building  
Rooms 209 & 210  
111 W. Fox Street, Yorkville, Illinois*

**Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.**

Chairman Ashton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Bill Ashton, Roger Bledsoe, Tom Casey, Bill Davis, Karin McCarthy-Lange, Larry Nelson, and Claire Wilson

Members Absent: Ruben Rodriguez and John Shaw

Staff Present: Matthew H. Asselmeier, Senior Planner, and Ruth Ann Sikes, Part Time Office Assistant (Zoning)

In the Audience: Mark Caldwell, Adam Theis, JoAnn Theis, Steve Graves, Jeff Spang, Kurt Buhle, Jeanette Buhle, and Matthew Prochaska

Chairman Ashton welcomed Karin McCarthy-Lange to the Commission representing Oswego Township.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Member Bledsoe made a motion, seconded by Member Nelson to approve the agenda. With a voice vote of seven (7) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by Member Casey, to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2019, meeting. With a voice vote of seven (7) ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

Ruth Ann Sikes, Part Time Office Assistant (Zoning) asked all audience members that were going to speak to please sign in and speak directly into the microphone so that everything could be recorded.

**PETITIONS**

**19-11 Mark Caldwell on Behalf of Dickson Valley Ministries**

Mr. Asselmeier provided updated information on Petition 19-11.

At the April 24, 2019, meeting of the Kendall County Regional Planning Commission, the Commission requested less detail on the Petitioner's site plan.

Mr. Asselmeier stated that the Petitioner desires this major amendment in order to have a long-range plan for their facilities and to provide more clarity to the site plan that was submitted in 2014.

The proposed changes are follows:

1. Clarification on the conditional statement that total capacity is three hundred fifty (350) "overnight campers." This number is inclusive of as many as one hundred (100) day-only campers during the summer.
2. Clarification that the live-on-site staff needed in supporting the ministry is composed of as many as six (6) full-time, long-term families; currently this figure is five (5).

3. Clarification of staffing levels at twenty-four (24) single short-term, twelve (12) month program staff, and sixty-four (64) seasonal summer staff.
4. Development A, Day Camp Area, shall consist of a Multipurpose Field-house, various free standing decks for small group activities, at least two (2) open air camper pavilions, day camp specific activities, water activities (i.e. splash pad, or wading fountain), and combined septic field serving all new restrooms will also be located in this area.
5. Development B, Resident Camp Area, shall consist of five (5) year-round camper cabins; four (4) of which are new.
6. Development C, Activity Area, shall consist of an outdoor high ropes course, mini-golf course, ice rink pavilion, free standing decks for small groups and one (1) year-round camper cabin.
7. Development D, Entrance Parking, shall consist of welcome pavilions for day camp, a chapel in the woods, camper check-in area, and volunteer RV hook-ups. The Petitioner is also considering placing a freestanding office structure in this area.
8. Development E, Entrance Drive, shall consist of a new gatehouse for a controlled entrance and a multi-bay staff lodge garage near the Whitaker Lodge just outside the zone. Upgrades to the driveway and entrance will occur and the lighted sign will remain. Landscaping will be updated.
9. Development F, Maintenance Area, shall consist of a new shop and removal or remodel of the old shop.
10. Development G, Acorn Lodge Area, shall consist of a separate activities pavilion and separate program/meeting building.
11. Development H, North Activity Area, shall consist of primitive non-public campsites, no permanent structures, and a parking area off of Finnie Road. Experiential activities similar to, but not limited to, climbing tower(s), zip line(s), team activities, a high ropes course, and a pedestrian walkway over/under/across Finnie Road are planned for this area.
12. The Retreat Development Zone shall consist of a water filtration building or addition to the existing well and well house. A new building for recreation room, snack shop, and host offices. Within this zone, several buildings will have additions and/or remodels.
13. Addition 1, Director's Lodge, shall consist of an addition to the north end of the building. The current structure is one hundred twenty-six feet (126') offset from the road.
14. Addition 2, Chrouser Lodge, shall consist of an addition for dining space to the north or west.
15. Addition 3, Dickson Lodge, shall consist of additional meeting spaces, an addition of at least two (2) separate "leaders" rooms with restrooms, and remodel and add-on to program office for camp store.
16. Addition 4, Oulund Chalet, shall consist of remodeling to improve housing space and remodeling of restrooms.
17. Addition 5, Silver Fox Lodge, shall consist of an addition for new restrooms and an addition of added housing.

18. Addition 6, Sports Center, shall consist of a south addition for upgraded activities, remodels to restrooms, and development of an exterior high ropes courses or similar.
19. Addition 7, Acorn Lodge, shall consist of a remodel of the current lodge for updated plumbing and housing.

As noted on the proposed site plan, the final locations, sizes, and designs will be approved at the time of permitting and with the approvals of local regulatory bodies.

Also at the April meeting, the Commission was concerned about Fox Township's requests of the Petitioner. Fox Township clarified that they do not want a right-of-way dedication at this time, but they would like to be informed if a structure is constructed above or below Finnie Road.

The proposed conditions on the special use permit are as follows:

1. The conditions and restrictions of Ordinance 2014-05 shall remain in effect including the clarifications stated in the Site Plan attached to this Ordinance amending the existing special use permit.
2. The Site Plan attached as Exhibit A to Ordinance 2014-05 is hereby repealed and replaced with the attached Site Plan. The site shall be developed substantially in conformance with the attached Site Plan.
3. Any overpass or underpass over or below the Finnie Road right-of-way shall be approved by Fox Township. This restriction shall not include at-grade crossings of Finnie Road.
4. The operators of the use allowed by this special use permit shall follow applicable Federal, State, and Local laws related to the operation of this type of use.
5. Failure to comply with one or more of the above conditions or restrictions or the conditions and restrictions contained in Ordinance 2014-05 could result in the amendment or revocation of the special use permit.
6. If one or more of the above conditions or restrictions or any of the conditions or restrictions contained in Ordinance 2014-05 are declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining conditions and restrictions shall remain valid.

Member Nelson asked Mr. Caldwell if the new version was better. Mr. Caldwell replied they were comfortable with the changes and they would deal with any permitting issues when the new additions were constructed.

Member Nelson made a motion, seconded by Member Wilson, to recommend approval of the amended petition with the condition proposed by Staff.

Ayes (7): Ashton, Bledsoe, Casey, Davis, McCarthy-Lange Nelson, and Wilson  
Nays (0): None  
Absent (2): Rodriguez and Shaw

The motion passed. This proposal will go to the Zoning Board of Appeals on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**19-12 Robert Bright on Behalf of the Madison Trust and Castle Bank N A and JoAnn Bright-Theis**  
Mr. Asselmeier summarized the request.

JoAnn Bright-Theis would like to establish the Brighter Daze Farm and Events banquet facility at the subject property which is currently owned in a trust represented by her father, Robert Bright.

The subject property is approximately thirty-eight acres (38) acres in size.

Crimmin Road is a major collector and scenic route. No trails are planned along the road.

A riverine wetland is located along the southwest edge of the subject property.

The adjacent land uses are agricultural related, farmsteads, religious, or forest preserve. The adjacent zonings are A-1. Based on the aerial of the site, there are six (6) homes within a half mile of the subject property.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location, Millington Fen INAI Site, Fox River INAI Site, Millington Railroad Fen Natural Landmark, Tucker-Millington Fen Natural Preserve, and River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*). Negative impacts to the above are considered unlikely and consultation was terminated.

The NRI application was submitted on March 14, 2019. The LESA Score was 181 indicating a low level of protection.

Fox Township was emailed information on March 27, 2019. Fox Township submitted comments on April 16, 2019. In particular, Fox Township reiterated that the Township was a dry township; the Township disagreed with the functional classification of Crimmin Road contained in the Land Resource Management Plan; the Township requested a traffic study regarding the impact of the proposed venue on Crimmin Road, including the possibility of improvements to Crimmin Road necessitated by the proposed special use permit. On May 9, 2019, the Petitioner, Fox Township, and the Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning Department held a conference call on the proposal. The Petitioner agreed to the dry regulations of the Township. The Township stated that they would not fight the functional classification of Crimmin Road in the Land Resource Management Plan. The Township stated that they (Fox Township) would request a traffic study from the Kendall County Highway Department. This study could result in a change of the speed limit on Crimmin Road to a speed less than the current fifty-five miles per hour (55 MPH), a requirement the Petitioners post additional one-way directional signage within their property, and the possibility that Fox Township adopt an ordinance forbidding parking along Crimmin Road. "Venue Ahead" signage along Crimmin Road was discussed. Also, the possible dedication of right-of-way was discussed.

Newark Fire Protection District was emailed information on March 27, 2019.

The Village of Newark was emailed information on March 27, 2019.

ZPAC reviewed this proposal at their meeting on April 2, 2019. The Health Department provided information about well monitoring. A site survey will be completed defining the location of the existing septic system. The equestrian business will continue at the property as a separate business. Discussion occurred regarding the planned the realignment of Crimmin Road. ZPAC recommended approval with all but (1) member voting yes. One (1) member voted present.

No variances were requested and the Petitioner will operate the banquet center in compliance with the regulations currently stated in the Zoning Ordinance.

The business plan for the proposed operations, building elevations, landscaping plan, parking illumination plan, and interior plan were provided.

According to the information provided to the County, the proposed banquet facility will utilize the existing approximately eight thousand (8,000) square foot barn for weddings and similar events. The maximum capacity will be approximately two hundred eighty (280) people, with one (1) additional employee. While banquets will occur inside the existing barn, prospective clients could use the exterior grounds for pictures and outdoor ceremonies. The interior of the barn is converted arena with a concrete floor. The barn is approximately twenty-six feet (26') tall at its peak and ten feet (10') tall at the ends.

An existing pond is located east of the horse barn.

The hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until Midnight. The facility would be open on the eve and day of all federal holidays. Tours of the facility for prospective customers by appointment and could occur outside the listed hours of operation. Setup for events would start at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the event and customers would have one (1) hour to vacate the premises after the conclusion of the event. The facility would close on November 1<sup>st</sup> and reopen April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The proposed business would use local sub-contractors for uses on the site, including linens, decorations, food services, beverage services, bathroom services, and cleanup services. Because Fox Township is a dry township, no cash bars are allowed.

The proposed business would use luxury trailer bathrooms for events with the intention to have permanent restroom facilities by 2021. Restroom facilities will be located north of the barn by the parking area.

The dumpster shall be located next to the parking lot by the barn.

If approved, the Petitioners hope to start operations as quickly as possible.

Ancillary items, such as Brighter Daze shirts and glasses, may be sold on the premises.

An updated Occupancy Permit will be required reflecting the change of use from a horse barn to a banquet facility.

Portable bathrooms will be used for events.

The property fronts Crimmin Road. According to the site plan, patrons will enter the property through the driveway north of the existing house. Traffic will drive southeast along the one (1) way driveway to the existing barn, a distance of approximately seven hundred feet (700'). There are thirty-four (34) parking spaces and four (4) additional handicapped accessible parking spaces by the barn. An additional seventy-five (75) parking spaces will be located east of the barn and will be accessible via a gravel driveway; these parking spaces will be served by shuttle. Traffic will exit the property through a one (1) way driveway leading to the north end of the property.

Two (2) new lights are proposed for site. According to the parking illumination plan, no light will leave the property. All lights will be turned off within one (1) hour of the conclusion of events.

One entrance and one exit sign will be installed on the property. The signs will be approximately four hundred thirty-two (432) square inches. Neither sign will be illuminated.

As shown the on proposed site plan, the site contains approximately one hundred sixty-six (166) trees of varying heights encircling the venue.

All music and noise shall originate inside the venue except for processional and recessional at weddings. The facility shall follow the noise regulations for banquet facilities. Speakers will face east and the barn doors will remain closed after 7:00 p.m.

With the combination of distance and plantings, the Petitioners believe noise will not be an issue.

Staff recommends approval of the requested special use permit subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

1. The site shall be developed substantially in accordance with the attached site plan, landscaping plan, and parking illumination plan.
2. Permanent restroom facilities shall be installed by 2021. When the permanent restroom facilities are installed, the portable bathrooms shown on the attached site plan shall be removed.
3. A maximum of two hundred eighty (280) guests in attendance at a banquet center related event may be on the subject property at a given time.
4. The subject parcel must maintain a minimum of five (5) acres.
5. The use of this property shall be in compliance with all applicable ordinances. The banquet facility shall conform to the regulations of the Kendall County Health Department and the Kendall County Liquor Control Ordinance. (Ord. 99-34)
6. Off-street parking, lighting and landscaping shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Zoning Ordinance.
7. All signage shall comply with the provisions of Section 12 of the Kendall County Zoning Ordinance. The signage shall be developed in accordance to the attached site plan. Any signage provided will not be illuminated. The owners of the business allowed by this special use permit may install additional non-illuminated traffic directional signs not shown on the approved site plan within their property. (Last sentence added after discussion with Fox Township).
8. Retail sales are permitted as long as the retail sales will be ancillary to the main operation.
9. The noise regulations are as follows:

Day Hours: No person shall cause or allow the emission of sound during daytime hours (7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) from any noise source to any receiving residential land which exceeds sixty-five (65) dBA when measured at any point within such receiving residential land, provided; however, that point of measurement shall be on the property line of the complainant.

Night Hours: No person shall cause or allow the emission of sound during nighttime hours (10:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.) from any noise source to any receiving residential land which exceeds fifty-five (55) dBA when measured at any point within such receiving residential land provided; however, that point of measurement shall be on the property line of the complainant.

**EXEMPTION:** Powered Equipment: Powered equipment, such as lawn mowers, small lawn and garden tools, riding tractors, and snow removal equipment which is necessary for the maintenance of property is exempted from the noise regulations between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) A.M. and ten o'clock (10:00) P.M.

10. No music shall originate outside of any building. This exemption shall not apply to non-amplified music used or performed as part of a wedding ceremony. All speakers shall be pointed towards the inside of buildings. Barn doors shall close by 7:00 p.m.
11. The hours of operation shall be Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until Midnight. The facility would be open on the eve and day of all federal holidays. Tours of the facility for prospective customers shall be by appointment and could occur outside the listed hours of operation. Setup for events would start at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the event and customers would have one (1) hour to vacate the premises after the conclusion of the event. The facility would close on November 1<sup>st</sup> and reopen April 1<sup>st</sup>.
12. A new certificate of occupancy must be issued for the barn.
13. Within ninety (90) days of the approval of this special use permit ordinance, the owners of the subject property shall dedicate a strip of land along the entire western boundary of the property at a depth of forty-five feet (45') as measured from the centerline of Crimmin Road to Fox Township to be used as Crimmin Road right-of-way. (Added per Fox Township).
14. The operator(s) of the banquet facility acknowledge and agree to follow Kendall County's Right to Farm Clause.
15. The operator(s) of the banquet facility allowed by this special use permit shall follow all applicable Federal, State, and Local laws related to the operation of this type of business.
16. Failure to comply with one or more of the above conditions or restrictions could result in the amendment or revocation of the special use permit.
17. If one or more of the above conditions is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining conditions shall remain valid.

Member Wilson asked where the closest houses are located in relation to the property. Mr. Asselmeier said there is one (1) directly across from the property and six (6) within a half (1/2) mile of the property. The operators of the facility live on site.

Member McCarthy-Lange asked if the neighbors had been notified. Mr. Asselmeier replied yes per State law.

Member Wilson asked where the lights would be located. Adam Theis replied they would be along the existing curb line just west of the parking lot. Mr. Theis said they have thirty-four (34) parking spots on site and seventy-five (75) additional spots on a remote lot and the parking plan meets the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.

When asked about septic system for permanent toilets, Mr. Theis replied they would be doing a study within the next six (6) months to determine the actual design and location recommendations.

Mr. Theis said they do plan on having events on Sunday with the hours being the same as Saturday hours, with thirty (30) events a year. After discussion on the subject, the Petitioners agreed to have Sunday hours the same as Monday through Thursday hours, closing the facility at 10:00 p.m.

Jeff Spang, speaking as a resident of Fox Township, had the following questions, where do staff and vendors park and how would the Petitioners handle events with no air conditioning in the months of June, July and August. Mr. Spang stated that events are currently held on the property and these events are not private, but public events. Mr. Theis responded that vendors and staff park on the remote lot. There is no air conditioning,

but they will have fans and the temperature is cooler inside the building. They have had no public events and would like to know the dates that Mr. Spang was referencing.

Steven Graves and Kurt Buhle both voiced concerns about the added traffic getting to and from the venue because it is very dangerous stretch of road.

Jeff Spang, speaking as Fox Township Supervisor, reported that Fox Township has an investigation in process and would like for the Commission to lay this proposal over so they can complete their investigation. Member Nelson asked if the continuation of this would impact votes on the issue. Mr. Spang said the investigation could impact votes.

Member Wilson asked if Crimmin Road was a major collector road and Mr. Asselmeier replied yes according to the Land Resource Management Plan. Discussion occurred regarding how Crimmin Road was classified as a major collector road.

Jeanette Buhle expressed concerns about directional signage outside of venue especially at night.

The consensus of the Commission and without any objections from Commissioners, the Petitioner or anyone else in attendance, this proposal was laid over until the June meeting of the Kendall County Regional Planning Commission.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/ PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Petition 18-04 Request from the Kendall County Regional Planning Commission**

Matthew Prochaska, Planning, Building, and Zoning Committee Chairman, said that the Committee has refused to forward the proposal to the County Board. He is exploring a discharge petition.

Member Nelson made a motion, seconded by Member Davis, to lay this issue over for one (1) month.

Ayes (7): Ashton, Bledsoe, Casey, Davis, McCarthy-Lange, Nelson, and Wilson  
Nays (0): None  
Absent (2): Rodriguez and Shaw

This proposal will be laid over until the June meeting of the Kendall County Regional Planning Commission.

**REVIEW OF PETITIONS THAT WENT TO COUNTY BOARD**

Mr. Asselmeier reported that Petition 17-28 pertaining to Kendall County gun range zoning regulations was approved by the County Board. A summary of the ordinance was provided to Commissioners.

Mr. Asselmeier reported that Petition 19-07 pertaining to parking and storage of RV's, trailers, and mobile homes was withdrawn by the Kendall County Planning, Building and Zoning Committee.

Mr. Asselmeier reported that Petition 19-08 did not go to the County Board. The prospective buyer and sellers are still negotiating the terms of the contract.



**OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Asselmeier announced that Ben Schroeder's resignation was accepted by the County Board Chairman.

Mr. Asselmeier said he spoke to Mike Hoffman today and Mr. Hoffman plans to have the text amendment changes done by the end of the week or Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, at the latest. The contract with the County expires June 29<sup>th</sup> for this project.

Mr. Prochaska said the County Board does have some candidates from Big Grove Township under consideration and hopes to fill the seat within the next couple months.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by Member Davis, to adjourn. With a voice vote of seven (7) ayes, the motion passed unanimously. The Kendall County Regional Plan Commission meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Ruth Ann Sikes  
Part-Time Office Assistant (Zoning)

Enc.

**KENDALL COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
MAY 22, 2019**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Mark Caldwell		
John B. Jones	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sara Thies	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Steve Graves	[REDACTED]	-
Jeff Spring	millbrook	
Kurt Buhle	[REDACTED]	
Jegnette Buhle	[REDACTED]	