

**ITEM 4**  
6:35 p.m.

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**APPLICANT:** City of Bloomington (study item)

**REQUEST:** Discuss potential City Code amendments regarding special events

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**DISCUSSION:**

Heyman gave an outline of potential City Code amendments regarding special events.

**Purpose:**

- Remove administrative redundancy
- Update City Code to match City practices
- Examine fees for special events

**Special Event Interim Use Permit (IUP):**

- Only applies to MOA
  - It was meant to streamline events but still creates redundancy
  - Specific to a calendar year and many details of events are not known at the beginning of the year
  - Has to go through public assembly licensing process in addition to IUP process
- Proposal: eliminate IUP requirements

**Public Assembly:**

- Examples - Cirque du Soleil, Heritage Days, demonstrations, etc.
- Processed through the City Clerk

**Differences between IUP and Public Assembly Permit:**

- Minimum Filing periods
  - IUP – 20 days
  - Public Assembly Permit – 4-7 days
    - Legal issues with longer minimum filing periods
    - Most large events have complied with 60 day suggested minimum filing period
- Notice to Neighbors
  - IUP – 10 days prior
  - Public Assembly Permit – 2 days prior
    - Tied to minimum filing period
- Level of Review
  - IUP – Planning Commission
  - Public Assembly Permit – administrative
    - Tied to minimum filing periods
    - Staff can reject applications that negatively affect health, safety, welfare
    - Temporary alcohol licenses require City Council review

**Policy Question:** Delete Special Event IUP standards and maintain Public Assembly standards?

- Length of event
  - IUP – 45 days
  - Public Assembly Permit – need a limit?
    - Can place reasonable time, place and manner restrictions

**Policy Question:** do you think there should be a time limit? What length is appropriate?

- Site Restoration
  - IUP – 36 hours
  - Public Assembly Permit – 24 hours
    - No past issues with 24 hours standard

**Policy Question:** Delete Special Event IUP standards and maintain Public Assembly standards?
- Allow special events in all districts
  - Currently – Accessory in Neighborhood and Freeway Commercial Districts and Interim Use in CO-2 and CX-2
  - Proposed – Permitted in all districts
    - Match code to City practice
    - Accessory standards difficult to enforce
    - Deny applications based on health, safety and welfare

**Policy Question:** Do you concur with the opening it up to all districts?

**Fees:**

- City Council will review the Public Assembly fee
- Staff is considering an increase
- Planning Commission does not have review authority

**Project Schedule:**

- Memo to City Council – February 2016
- Planning Commission Hearing - February 2016
- City Council Hearing – March 2016  
(Mall of America event series start in April 2016)

**Discussion:**

Willette asked about the noticing process. Heyman said a letter is sent. Property owners along a parade route must sign a document. Willette asked how that is possible in 24 hours. Heyman said the Deputy City Clerk had no issue in the past.

Goodrum stated there is a close timing with a 4-5 day filing period and then notify within 2 days. He feels like that doesn't provide sufficient time for notification. He would like to see a limit to events in all districts. Heyman clarified that the numbers are minimums. The 45 day IUP standard only applies to the CO-2 and CX-2 districts with the Mall of America. The minimum 4 to 7 day minimum is based on legal purposes.

Heyman clarified that the proposal is to allow events as a permitted use in all districts. Markegard said in the newer zoning districts, special events have been listed in the use matrix as a use. In the older districts, special events are not listed as a use, although they have historically been allowed in all districts. It is important to either treat special events as a use or not as a use. It should not be treated one way in some district and one way in others, so the proposal is more of a cleanup.

Nordstrom said that the size of the event should matter depending on the type and location of the event. Goodrum wants to make sure residents and business owners are notified.

Batterson asked for clarification on the kinds of Mall of America events. Markegard said there have been driving events, beer events, Cirque du Soleil, ice castles, etc.

Bennett asked about the time limit for Mall of America events. Heyman said it was a 45 day limit under the IUP standards. Bennett said she would like to see a time limit on special events.

Fischer said he would like to see more application review and notice time provided on the front end.

Spiess agreed with the comments and believed there should be a special event time limit as well.