



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 20, 2023

DATE: May 18, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Chris Bronczyk, Senior Planner, Planning and Building Division
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THROUGH: Kelly Mullin, AICP, Division Director, Planning & Building Division,
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SUBJECT: Public hearing: Approve an outdoor festival business license (pursuant to Washoe County Code Chapter 25 and related provisions) and associated license conditions for an application submitted by Travel North Tahoe Nevada, on behalf of the Incline Village Crystal Bay Drone SkyShow Coalition, to hold a "Drone SkyShow" event on July 4, 2023, at 948 Incline Way (APN: 127-030-15), the Incline Village Visitor Center Park and ball fields. Set-up for traffic control will begin at 5:00 a.m. on July 4, 2023, and the Drone SkyShow event will occur from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Event take-down and cleanup will begin immediately following the Drone SkyShow. This includes a community clean-up day on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. Event organizers estimate 5,000 spectators/attendees. If approved, authorize the Director of the Planning and Building Division to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met. (Commission District 1.)

SUMMARY

Consider the outdoor festival business license application for the Incline Village Crystal Bay Skyshow Coalition "Drone SkyShow" event to be held July 4, 2023. The event organizers have described this as an environmentally sustainable and fire safe celebration at Lake Tahoe. The Board of County Commissioners (Board) may approve the issuance of the business license with conditions or deny the business license application.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Support a Thriving Community

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 21, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) heard and approved the first Drone SkyShow event for Incline Village. This event took place on July 4, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

The Incline Village 4th of July event was started in 2006 when a group of Incline Village residents created a nonprofit organization named the Red, White and Tahoe Blue Inc., to plan, organize and raise funds for a Fourth of July event to promote community spirit, family activities and local businesses. The Red, White and Tahoe Blue event has evolved over the years, with several organizations currently sponsoring various activities for the holiday. In 2022, multiple organizations coordinated to conduct a “Drone SkyShow” event in lieu of the more traditional pyrotechnic fireworks display.

This year, the Drone SkyShow will continue for its second event, and is being coordinated by Travel North Tahoe Nevada in a joint effort with the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID), the Incline Village Crystal Bay Community & Business Association (IVCBA), the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe and the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation. The applicant has indicated that the intent of the event is to provide a high-quality, innovative, environmentally sustainable, and fire safe 4th of July celebration at Lake Tahoe. Any associated smaller events for the 4th of July will be held by other organizations / entities.

The Drone SkyShow is estimated to have approximately 5,000 spectators. The event will be conducted at the baseball fields near Incline Village middle school, located at the intersection of Southwood Blvd. and Incline Way. The drones will fly above the open space adjacent to the ball fields. The drone show will be provided by Verge Aero, a company based out of Philadelphia that specializes in such events. Verge will provide a custom 250-unit drone show operating for up to 10 minutes. The show times will be approximately 9:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Set-up for traffic control will begin at 5:00 a.m. on July 4, 2023, and the Drone SkyShow event will occur from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Event take-down and cleanup will begin immediately following the Drone SkyShow.

Spectator “zones” will be set up on 2 of the 3 ball fields with the 3rd field being utilized for drone set up operations. Portable toilets, hand washing stations, and medical standby will be provided in a nearby parking lot.

Staff and affected agencies have reviewed this application to ensure that all necessary services (e.g. restrooms, medical, fire, sheriff, security), traffic control, and cleanup are provided (see Attachment B for agency conditions of approval, and Attachment C, event application). To ensure that the public health, safety and welfare is protected, all affected agencies have planned in advance to determine how much staff and other resources will be needed during the event.

A detailed traffic control plan has been submitted (see Attachment C, Event Application, page 52). A parking and shuttle plan has also been prepared and submitted (see Attachment C, Event Application, page 60). Traffic control will begin at 5:00 a.m. and continue through the end of the event until all traffic has exited. The Sheriff’s Office will be contracted to provide traffic and security services. An NDOT permit has been issued for the event concerning SR 28 encroachment. A communication and safety plan has been submitted that includes plans for radio communications, medical services, and lighting. Cleanup will begin immediately following the event and continue through the next day.

FISCAL IMPACT

The applicant provided the required non-refundable \$1,000 application fee and the daily fee of \$350 pursuant to WCC 25.273(1)(a) upon submission of the application. The fees were deposited to CSD Planning and Development; Permits and Licenses (105402); General Business License (421101).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the outdoor festival business license application, with the license conditions included as Attachment B, for the Incline Village Crystal Bay Drone SkyShow Coalition to hold a “Drone SkyShow” event on July 4, 2023, at 948 Incline Way (APN: 127-030-15) at the Incline Village Visitor Center Park and ball fields; and further, to authorize the Director of the Planning & Building Division to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to approve an outdoor festival business license application, with the license conditions included as Attachment B, for the Incline Village Crystal Bay Drone SkyShow Coalition to hold a “Drone SkyShow” event on July 4, 2023, at 948 Incline Way (APN: 127-030-15) at the Incline Village Visitor Center Park and ball fields; and further, to authorize the Director of the Planning & Building Division to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met.

Attachments: A. Outdoor Festival Business License
 B. Outdoor Festival Business License Conditions of Approval
 C. Outdoor Festival Business License Application

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