

11/10/2020

Humboldt County Fair Conditional Use Permit

As a citizen of Ferndale and of Humboldt county I urge you to support the Conditional use permit applied for by the Humboldt County Fair Association. The mitigations are more than sufficient to lessen the impact of the proposed events. These proposed events are common events for a fair and should be covered by the existing use permit, however the Humboldt County Fair Board has gone the extra mile to hire Whitchurch Engineering to evaluate the sound impact and develop solid and common mitigations.

Commissioner McCavor summed this issue up very succinctly at the September 3 Humboldt county planning commission meeting when the vote to approve was unanimous. To paraphrase her statement, she said that as a member of a community you are not always going to be 100% comfortable. Being a part of a community means tolerating difference. Others in the community will have different interests and when those different interests are exercised are the times when tolerance is necessary. The remaining 99% of the time is when shared values create the comfort of being a part of the community.

As for the Friends of Ferndale, who elected them to dictate the values of Ferndale? Ferndale is a vibrant community with members of all ages, not a retirement community. This recent gentrification of Ferndale by retirees doesn't serve the broad needs of Ferndale families who have school age children and those who want a resilient business district. The Humboldt County Fairgrounds has a history almost as long as Ferndale, as an attraction to Ferndale. Why does it have to have a 68-decibel sound cap? It hasn't in the past.

Most of the Friends of Ferndale don't even know that during the Fair in the not too distant past: Chopper Westbrook provided helicopter rides every half an hour from the 5th street parking lot. The Lumberjack competitions had unmuffled chainsaws racing to buck logs and open wheel indy type car racers used the track. Why are we so intolerant now?

All of the fairgrounds I can think of in the state host some form of motorized event. There is a segment of the population that enjoys these competitions, and they help generate revenue for the facility and business for the surrounding community. I personally have traveled to Trinity, Napa, Sonoma, Redwood Acres, Mendocino Counties, The State's, and San Jose fairgrounds to view or participate in motorized events. The mitigations proposed are more than adequate and typical to offset the noise of 2 events annually.

Thank you for your support,

Jay Russ