Case No. 16UR016

Legal Description:

Lots 17 and 18 and the north 55 feet of Lots 19 thru 21 of Block 84 of Original Town of Rapid City, located in Section 1, T1N, R7E, BHM, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota
June 9th, 2016

To the members of the Community Planning and Development Committee,

West Dakota Improv is a performance arts group which utilizes comedy and the creativity of improv to perform shows for the Rapid City, and larger Black Hills, community. Improv is a style of theater which involves quick wits and thinking in order to create scenes from nothing. If you have ever seen the television show, "Whose Line is it Anyway?", you have a good idea of what we do. Our shows revolve around us taking suggestions from the audience and then incorporating those into a variety of different games/skits. From this, no two shows are ever the same. Typically, shows involve 8-10 players (actors) and run roughly 2 hours, with a break halfway through.

This particular troupe has been in existence for nearly two years and was originally trained by someone who studied at Second City in Chicago, Illinois (in “the world of improv", Second City is regarded as one of the premier improv troupes in the country). We have weekly practices and have been putting on shows in and around Rapid City for over a year and a half. Each of the 20 members of the group have other vocations here in Rapid City and each volunteers their time and energy into being a part of this troupe. We have been honored to be able to also perform regular benefit shows for a variety of different organizations.
For the last year we have had weekly shows on Fridays over at the VFW, with crowds ranging from 50-100 people on any given night. We have greatly enjoyed our time and relationship with the VFW, however when we were told of the space at 632 1/2 St. Joseph street (and ultimately saw it), we knew we could not pass up the opportunity. We will use the space to perform our shows (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings), and for our practices. Our shows are adult-oriented (though we do family-friendly shows upon request as well), and so we are applying for a beer and wine license. We feel this is an important step in an effort toward continuity from some of the atmosphere we enjoyed at the VFW—in that our audience was able to enjoy a drink during our performances.

We are deeply encouraged by the reception we have gotten from those who attend our shows, with many of them coming back often. Our reputation as a quality entertainment group in Rapid City has grown greatly over the last year (we have been hired for the Firefighter's banquet and by the Dahl, among others), and we look forward to expanding that reputation in our new space.

Thank-you greatly for your consideration of our application for a Conditional Use Permit.

Sincerely,

WEST DAKOTA IMPROV

RECEIVED
JUN 10 2016
RAPID CITY COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES