

City of Shakopee
129 South Holmes Street
Shakopee, MN 55379

Sever's Fall Festival
Nicola Peterson & Sever Peterson
15900 Flying Cloud Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

July 19, 2017

To the Board of Adjustment & Appeals & Planning Commission:

In order to meet the requirements to amend our current CUP with the city of Shakopee, we'd like to provide further information along with our amendment application regarding our operation and address specific concerns that have been brought to our attention.

Sever's Fall Festival and Corn Maze is a family owned and operated that has been in Shakopee for the last nineteen years. This year, we celebrate our 21st season in our location next to Canterbury Park. Our operation includes a myriad of fall-themed activities with the marquee being the corn maze itself. It has been brought to our attention that there have been neighborhood concerns regarding the noise of our pumpkin range, which lobs pumpkins into a netted target field on the property. As a family, it is of utmost importance that we remain a good neighbor and do our very best to try to solve the issues at hand. We are hoping that we can resolve these complaints and maintain our pumpkin range at the same time as it is a crucial part of our operation, as well as one of the most popular attractions for our customers.

For this upcoming 2017 season, we have put together a list of techniques that we are ready to implement to mitigate the noise and particle issues of the pumpkin range located in the southwest corner of our festival courtyard. This includes:

1. Installation of four (4) strategically placed and spaced straw bale sound barriers directly in the pumpkin shooting lane. (Please see figure A for proposed placement.)
2. Installation of 6 - 12 foot tall sound walls from the ground up. This wall will also serve as a stronger, more reliable, and more effective barrier and backstop for particles. (Please see Figure B for proposed placement.)
3. Installation of sound dampening curtain on current safety net. Curtain will be installed to be overlapped (3 foot overlap) with the sound and barrier walls (as mentioned in #2) and go to the

top of the currently installed safety net, which is approximately 40 feet off the ground. (Please see figure C for proposed placement.)

4. We planted a specific variety of corn at a higher population rate around the pumpkin range area for the 2017 season. This corn variety is bred to be very tall (7 – 9 feet), excessively foliar, and sustain its strength throughout summer and fall. We planted this area at a 30% higher rate in order to make the field as “thick” as possible and mitigate as much sound as possible. We use specific irrigation techniques to ensure this corn meets its full growth potential. (Please see figure D for the special planted area.)
5. We are currently doing R&D on an improved barrel for our pumpkin range in hopes of dispersing the sound to be more quiet and even. Our work is showing promise and we plan to have these barrels in use for the 2017 festival season.
6. We have been testing and developing using less air pressure in our pumpkin range. With the help of both DSLM and ISLM metering devices, we believe we can reduce the amount of air pressure needed and in turn, reduce the overall sound decibels produced. We plan to have these techniques perfected and implemented for the 2017 season.
7. We have been testing and developing a more specific pumpkin sizing program. With the help from both DSLM and ISLM metering devices, we believe the better “fit” the pumpkin has in the barrel the less (air) blow by and have found this reduces the sound decibels produced. We plan to have this sizing system perfected and implemented for the 2017 season.

At this time, this is the only amendment to our CUP application that has been in place for many years. In addition, we are uncertain of our future in this current location as we have been made aware of future development of the area by its current owner, Canterbury Park. That being said, we are anticipating that this change in our CUP will only affect the 2017 season as it will most likely be our last season in this location unfortunately.

To our knowledge, we have had minimal complaints, if any, prior to the 2016 season and hope that our long history and good relationship with the city will help us in working together to find a resolution that works for the neighborhood and our family business alike. The Peterson family has enjoyed and appreciated being a part of the Shakopee community for over 100 years and is looking forward to many more.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Sever Peterson, Owner


Nicola Peterson, Manager

SOUND
MITIGATION
SITE



Eagle Creek Blvd



Figure A



FIGURE B



Figure C



Figure D

