

Council mulls effects of Wyoming Woodstock

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BY: Connie V. Scott, Herald Reporter

EVANSTON – Mixed opinions were voiced by councilmembers Tuesday as they discussed Wyoming Woodstock, a music festival scheduled to be held at Wyoming Downs in September.

A motion was presented to the council to allow Mayor Kent Williams to send a letter to the Uinta County Commissioners, granting permission for The Painted Lady Saloon to use its retail liquor license at the racetrack Sept. 4-6 for the three-day event.



Aundee Steinke, representing the Painted Lady Saloon and Wyoming Woodstock, answers questions from council members at Tuesday night's meeting. Concerns arose at the meeting about the influx of visitors to town for the three-day event, which is scheduled the same weekend as Evanston Cowboy Days. (HERALD PHOTO/Connie V. Scott)

Aundee Steinke, representative for The Painted Lady and Wyoming Woodstock, fielded questions from the council regarding the event and how it might benefit the community.

Five years in the making, Wyoming Woodstock is slated for Labor Day weekend, the same weekend as Evanston Cowboy Days and the Fort Bridger Rendezvous. Mayor Williams was concerned with the influx of people the event might bring to town and the impact it would have on other events that weekend.

“This is the same weekend as Cowboy Days. How do you see this impacting the weekend?” he asked. “Do you see it as a positive or a negative?”

Steinke said she believed it would be a positive impact on all of the festivities that weekend. Knowing some of the bands may not interest all participants, they will encourage Woodstock attendees to check out what is happening around town, she said.

“We will have a shuttle service to and from town, and plan to announce the rodeo events. We are also willing to sell tickets for the rodeo, if that is something they would be willing to have us do,” Steinke said.

Many of the councilmembers brought up questions about security and the heightened risk of negative situations occurring with an event of this size. Uinta County Sheriff Doug Matthews was asked if he had any concerns regarding the weekend.

“I want to be as supportive of an event like this as I possibly can be,” Matthews said,

“but it does stretch us really thin.”

Even though it will place added workload on the sheriff’s department, Matthews remained supportive of the event and said they would reach out to the Wyoming Highway Patrol for assistance

Steinke also assured the council that safety was and would continue to be high priority over the weekend.

“We have hired a professional security team from Salt Lake City,” she said. “They will be actively patrolling 24/7.”

Since this motion was to approve the use of The Painted Lady’s liquor license, questions about drinking and event hours arose from council members.

“Can you give us an idea of the hours for the weekend?” Councilwomen Wendy Schuler asked.

Steinke explained the event would kick off on Friday night with an opening concert, the arrival of early campers, and general admission, which would go until midnight.

“Saturday is an all-nighter,” Steinke said. “Alcohol will be sold all night, and concerts will go 24 hours, too.”

Councilman David Welling asked if the concerts would actually go on throughout the night. Steinke said the main stage concerts will run until mid-night, but a jam tent, which would be quieter, would run throughout the night.

Steinke said it wasn’t all about drinking and concerts. The chili cook-off, BBQ competition, and motorcycle rally, which the city has hosted in the past, will also be a part of the weekend. Family- and kid-friendly activities will also be part of the weekend.

The kid’s zone will include such attractions as a water play area, with a water slide and a slip-n-slide, a movie tent, animal petting area, story tent and various performers – such as an 18 foot puppet – fire performers, and Cirque du Soleil performers.

“We’re hoping it will be a good event for everyone,” Steinke said, “for the hotels, restaurants, everyone.”

Though not a unanimous decision, the council did vote in favor of the motion.

Wyoming Woodstock is in its final planning stages, and people can learn more about the weekend of events by visiting www.wyomingwoodstock.com.