

**CALHOUN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING – HAND RACEWAY PROPERTIES, LLC
January 27, 2015
5:00PM**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

**THOMAS G. FLOWERS, CHAIRMAN
MARION "LEE LEE" BROWN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DENNIS JONES
DARRELL MCDOUGALD
WOODROW "LEE" SHELTON**

**BO MCCORVEY, DEPUTY SHERIFF
MATT FUQUA, ATTORNEY
CARLA HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER
BECKY BROWN, DEPUTY CLERK**

Hand Raceway Properties, LLC

Representatives with Hand Raceway Properties, LLC (Carl Owens, Danny Hand and Josh Peel) addressed the Calhoun County Planning Commission with a request for expansion of the racetrack by 300 feet at Hand Raceway Properties for the purpose of making the track safer. There was explanation during the hearing there are wetlands at the end of the track and drivers have at times overrun the track and gone into the wetlands. (Application for Conditional Use Permit Expansion of existing facility includes: bathrooms, tower, new entrance road, and 330' extension of racetrack.)

Larry Defreezer addressed the Planning Commission with his concerns regarding the expansion project. Mr. Defreezer's property is 10 acres northwest of the additional property bought by Hand Raceway Properties, LLC; Mr. Defreezer's brother in law, Richard Conway, Jr., has 10 acres west of the adjoining property bought by Hand Raceway Properties, LLC. The racetrack starting point is currently 1,300 feet from Mr. Defreezer's property and backing up the starting line 300 feet will make the track (resulting noise) much closer to his house. Mr. Defreezer expressed other concerns including how often races will occur, how late races will run, lighting issues, and traffic on Apachee Road.

Mr. Owens stated the races will be held during the season of March through November and will be held three weekends out of the month. There will be approximately 40-60 cars participating in the races. Mr. Owens stated the track will sit 4 feet below ground level and a fence with 4' x 8' signs attached will be installed along the property line to assist with noise. They will install a paved entrance road on the north side of the property as a barrier between the adjoining landowners. Mr. Owens stated they will follow the required plan for drainage/erosion control and will meet the fire code requirements. They will have EMS and a Calhoun County Sheriff deputy on site during the race events.

Attorney Fuqua suggested the racetrack representatives come back to the next regular Board of County Commission meeting; February 10, 2015 with a written proposal specifically addressing sound attenuation, hours of operation, operating dates, lighting, and the public address system.

The Commissioners discussed how they would like to see the business move forward. Commissioner Jones stated he would like to check with other neighbors in the area to see if there were any other complaints. Chairman Flowers advised an ad was published in the newspaper and every adjoining landowner was notified via certified mail.

It was agreed the representatives from Hand Raceway Properties, LLC would be in attendance at the next regular Board Meeting and placed on the agenda as advised by Attorney Fuqua.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm.



THOMAS G. FLOWERS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



CARLA A. HAND, CLERK