

Meeting Summary

Project: PLH20-0070 Dogtopia Use Permit Extension

Purpose: 90-day trial neighbor evaluation

Date: June 7, 2021

City Planner: Zachary Werdean, City Planner, City of Chandler

On 6/7/2021, two neighbors from the Southshore neighborhood whose homes are the closest to Dogtopia's outdoor dog run met to discuss the use permit extension with the Planning Division. The use permit extension is to continue to allow an outdoor dog run at Dogtopia, located at 4901 S Arizona Avenue, Suite 7. To fully understand the compatibility with the neighbors, Dogtopia was granted a 90-day trial to test out the compatibility of their use with the neighbors. The trial ran from March 8th to June 6th. After the trial, neighborhood input was sought after to see how the use was perceived.

Many items were discussed during the meeting with the Southshore neighbors:

- The impact of the dogs barking and the videos of incidents? The neighbors said there were good days and bad days. Sometimes when the dogs bark, it disrupts the neighbors who are working from home and causes other dogs to bark within the neighborhood.
- Other neighbors within the neighborhood and their involvement? Neighbors were not being vocal because of cultural differences and they thought they had no chance to make a change in the use and how they operate. The two neighbors felt the same way, but due to living close to the dog run, felt they needed to speak up to the best of their ability.
- Compatibility with the school? School is back in session at BASIS (nextdoor to Dogtopia) and the commercial center is a constant noise polluter that affects the neighborhood. The neighbors prefer the school noise over the dog noise, as dogs have a sharp loud bark and kids playing on the playground act more as a white noise.
- What the neighbor's expectations were going forward? The neighbors thought Dogtopia has been better the last two weeks. Worried it was likely due to pressure from the citizens and the city and it may pick up after the use permit is approved. Hesitant to allow Dogtopia to expand their use, especially due to COVID affecting how businesses and people operated. They were asked what their expectations were going forward, the following conditions were discussed.

The two neighbors agreed the use permit should be extended if the following conditions are met:

- Outdoor dog run timeframes: Monday – Friday 9:00AM to 11:00AM and 3:00PM to 5:00PM (allow a 30-minute expansion for each time frame window to allow more time to change out dogs in the dog run)
- Number of dogs: Approximately 39 small breed dogs or 30 large breed dogs (keep the same as the original Use Permit, worried about more dogs creating more noise)
- Number of staff: 1 staff member for every 20 dogs (keep the same as the original Use Permit, to help guide the dogs inside if issues occur)
- 1-year time stipulation (keep the same as the original Use Permit)

Going forward after the year is complete, they are okay with a 3-year time stipulation if the next year goes well. Any additional changes in the future will have to do another 1-year time stipulation to ensure compatibility with the neighbors.