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## VBH BOT FYI Zoning

1 message

Wed, Mar 2, 2011 at 3:12 PM

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Panel seeks restrictions on polo  
By Carolyn Rusin Chicago TribLocal reporter March 1, 2011 at 4:17 p.m.

The Barrington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended against a request by a polo club to use a field adjacent to a residential neighborhood without having to repeatedly seek a permit, and imposed new conditions on attendance and entertainment.

The club has a "verbal handshake" to use the field at Oakwood Farms, across from the Cook County Forest Preserve at 350 Bateman Road, said president John Rosene, and holds the annual Kalaway Cup Polo Match there. But it would like to add events and Saturday practices and also lift some of the 11 conditions on the special use permit for the field.

The ZBA recommended Monday [2/28] that the Village Board approve the club's use of the field for practices and matches as a special use for as long as they have a lease with the farm owners. Rosene said there was no formal lease.

The board also recommended that the club continue to be required to get a special use permit for the annual polo event, which would be reviewed every 5 years. They also added some new restrictions, such as selling no more than 2,000 adult tickets for the Kalaway Cup and restricting when there can be live entertainment. The field would have to be cleared by 7:30 p.m.

Zoning board member Karen Rosene, wife of the polo club president, recused herself from discussions and voting. Chairman Jonathan Knight also did not vote.

The club wanted to use loud speakers and air horns at matches, which was allowed before the village required a special use permit in 2008 to use the field. Neighbors had complained of noise, traffic on the private road and trash on the field. The club now can use the devices for the Kalaway Cup.

"We're OK with extending the special use. We fought very hard for the protection that's in there," said Mike McLaughlin, one of a few neighbors whose properties abut the field. "We didn't want to give these up. We didn't like the air horns. We were out (side) doing what we do. It sounded like we were next to Soldier field."

McLaughlin, Jim Drury, another neighbor, and their attorney apparently came to a compromise with Rosene on some concerns, but Rosene would not discuss them. Attorney Joseph Von Meier on the ZBA was asked to

draw up the final draft of the recommendations to be passed on to the Village Board. He declined comment.

At a meeting last year, McLaughlin and Drury said ZBA members Judith Freeman, Kurt Anderson and Dara Valin should not be allowed to discuss and vote on the requests by the polo club because they are members of the Riding Club of Barrington Hills. That club co-hosts the Kalaway Cup with the polo club.

An attorney on the ZBA reviewed the possibility of conflict, but none was found, board chairman Jonathan Knight said.

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