ROTARY FOUNDATION OF RACINE WEST, INC.



827 Main St. Raçine, WI 53403 (262)634-9899

March 23, 2006

Ms. Cherri Cape, Councilwoman City Hall 730 Washington Ave. Racine, WI 53403

Re: Great Midwest Dragon Boat Festival - Traffic Control-Pershing Drive and Main Street (between 14th and 16th Streets)
July 7 and 8, 2006

Dear Ms. Moskonas:

The Racine West Rotary Club is joining in with the other two Rotary Clubs in Racine to plan and host the third annual Great Midwest Dragon Boat Festival on July 7 and 8, 2006. Last years event was a great success and it attracted over 6,000 spectators and 60+ teams. Due to the success and growth of the event over the last two years in promoting Racine public use of our great lakeshore resources with a free public event and supporting worthwhile local programs, we are expecting a 40-50% growth in participants this year over the 2005 festival.

The purpose of this letter is to request approval from the appropriate offices within Racine City government for the event described in the caption for this letter.

The specifics about the event as we envision them at this time are:

On Friday July 7, the activities will include an evening parade and festival. The Parade will proceed from near the Festival Hall public boat launch to Samuel Meyers Park. The Parade will include the Dragon Boats, a Chinese dance troupe and other participants. The festival would be held primarily on the grounds of Samuel Meyers Park and in one or more tents that will be erected at the park. It is our intention to again sell beer and malt-related beverages within the confines of a beer garden and various food items throughout the park. Live music will be provided.

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2. On Saturday July 8, the activities will focus on Dragon Boat races within the protected waters South of Samuel Meyers Park. There will be food and beverages available for participating teams and spectators. In addition, we will have entertainment activities at Samuel Meyers Park, along Main Street between 14th and 16th streets and at Carre-Hogle Park. Although, we do not yet have a necessary sponsor to pay for expenses, we are exploring having a fireworks display on the evening after the races.

Dragon Boats are manned by teams of 25 persons. They are rowed a distance of about % mile. Each team races multiple times to determine finalists who then race for the event championship. Our goal is to have over 80 teams and we anticipate a number of these teams will come from outside our community, as Dragon Boat Racing is a popular summer activity around the Midwest. We currently have about 60 teams registered for the July, 2006 event.

We expect to launch the dragon boats using a portable dock that would be located at the far southeast corner of Samuel Meyers Park.

Please advise what additional steps or applications are required to obtain approval by the City of Racine and schedule this request for the required public hearings. Please contact me if you require further information. My phone number is 634-9899.

Sincerely,

Úames H. DuRocher,

Secretary

JHD: kec

cc: Gary Becker, Mayor
 Cherri Cape, Councilwoman
 Rick Granite, Event Chair