

**GRAND JUNCTION CANNABIS LICENSING AUTHORITY
MINUTES
September 14, 2022**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Those present were Hearing Officer Stephanie Rubinstein, City Attorney John Shaver, Staff Attorney DeLayne Merritt, Principal Planner Nicole Galehouse, Police Officer Travis Wright and Deputy City Clerk Janet Harrell.

Hearing Officer Rubinstein reviewed the hearing process and confirmed representatives were present for each item.

II. New License Applications

1. Animas Herbal Wellness Center, Inc. dba Prohibition Herb, 584 25 Road Grand Junction, CO 81505, Retail

Appearing

President John Menzies

Co-Founder Wes Drobney

Mr. Menzies testified regarding the ventilation and findings of suitability issues identified by the City in their report of findings. He noted that regarding the ventilation plan, their operation plan states they will only be bringing in pre-packaged marijuana. Their original plan wasn't practical and has been modified. They now have an air scrubber source to clean and ventilate the air. However, as their floor plan is still conceptual, they have not submitted a revised ventilation plan, but are willing to do so. Regarding the undisclosed prior charges and business licenses, Mr. Menzies went to Larimer County to have them pull his court records and was surprised to learn there were additional charges on his record. He was able to provide all the records he could get from both Larimer and LaPlata Counties. He addressed the undisclosed business licenses by stating he misinterpreted the question. He believed the question was related only to marijuana businesses.

Staff Attorney Merritt stated the City's recommendation is that the operating plan be revised to remove the language that indicates only sealed, pre-packaged concentrate would be the product on the premises, just to make it clear between the operation and ventilation plans. Regarding the Grand Junction Police Department's investigation, upon contact, Mr. Menzies was very cooperative and both cases are resolved.

In response to questions by City Attorney Shaver, Ms. Galehouse testified the ventilation and operating plans are in alignment and are sufficient except for the language stipulating the use of "only sealed, prepackaged concentrate."

Hearing Officer Rubinstein asked if anyone present would like to speak regarding the application. There was no one.

Hearing Officer Rubinstein ruled she reviewed the application and findings report and considered the testimony given. There were two deficiencies noted in the application. The applicant needs to update their application to indicate there will be not only pre-packaged marijuana, but on-site packaging as well. As it relates to the findings of suitability, the failure to disclose was not intentional and has been resolved. The application is complete conditional upon receipt, review, and approval of the updated plans. If the condition is met, the application will move to the randomized selection process. This decision is final, and any appeals should be made to the 21st Judicial District.

2. Colorado Greens, LLC dba The Green Horizon, 739 Horizon Drive Unit B, Grand Junction, CO 81506, Retail

Appearing

Member Jim Cagle
Cody Parkes

Mr. Cagle testified they are aware of the 20' maximum allowance for signage. They would prefer a pole sign if they can meet the 20' restriction. If not, they will place the sign on the building. He brought a parking site plan with him to demonstrate there are 44 parking spaces available for the two businesses. The marijuana business would have 17 spaces. The building has a demising wall separating the Subway Restaurant in front and the marijuana business in back. He testified he had 30 individual restaurant licenses at one time; however, there were no liquor licenses.

In response to questions from the Hearing Officer, Ms. Galehouse testified only one pole sign and one building sign for this site is allowed. In terms of parking, one space per three seats is dedicated for the Subway Restaurant, leaving six for the marijuana business.

Hearing Officer Rubinstein asked if anyone present would like to speak regarding the application. There was no one.

Hearing Officer Rubinstein ruled after reviewing the application and the findings report, the businesses not disclosed are not required to be disclosed and a site plan is to be submitted within 24 hours. The application is deemed complete, conditional upon the site plan submission, review, and approval. Upon approval, the application can be moved to the randomized selection process. This ruling is final, and any appeal shall be made to the 21st Judicial District.

3. RFSCGJ, LLC dba Roots Recreational, 2800 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Retail

Appearing

Member Robert Richard Holmes, Jr.
Chris Green

Mr. Holmes testified he didn't disclose his other businesses because he misunderstood the question and believed he was only to disclose marijuana-related businesses.

Staff Attorney Merritt stated besides the failure to provide a listing of other business licenses held, there are no other issues with this application.

Hearing Officer Rubinstein asked if anyone present would like to speak regarding the application. There was no one.

Hearing Officer Rubinstein ruled she reviewed the application, and the findings report and considered the evidence presented at the hearing. There was one deficiency noted as to the application which relates to the business licenses associated to Robert Holmes. Since there are no licenses attached to it and no other issues, the application is complete. The application is forwarded to the randomized selection process. This ruling is final, and any appeal of this decision shall be made to the 21st Judicial District.

III. Other Business

There was none.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.