

Fisher Vicki

From: Barbara Paur [barbpaur@q.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 4:04 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: PLANNING ZONING ISSUE

To the Members of the Rapid City Planning Commission and The Rapid City Council:

We have operated Mt Rushmore Birds in the downtown core since 2007. As a specialty bird store we are currently located at 910 Main St which is our third downtown location. We are certified Avian Specialists selling and caring for exotic companion birds. We do not sell other animals or pets. We sell bird food, toys, cages and supplies plus we provide bird boarding and grooming services. We have a 'rescue – rehome program' with many of those birds coming to us from the Black Hills Humane Society as they are not capable of properly caring for exotic companion birds. We continue to provide long term care for several relinquished birds which are not able to be placed in new homes. We are annually licensed and inspected by the State of South Dakota. We have also paid for an annual kennel license from the Black Hills Humane Society.

Our customers are from South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana. Last summer we even served a customer who lives in Dubai. Some of our out of town customers make a week-end of it when they travel to shop in our store.

At the March 6 Planning Commission meeting, Vicki Fisher of Community Planning & Development Services explained that while we have been a downtown business for 7 years without any complaints, it was recently determined that we are not in compliance with the ordinance governing businesses permitted in the downtown core. No one seems to know why this has only recently become an issue but now the objective is for us to be able to remain a downtown Rapid City business and continue our active involvement with Destination Rapid City. Vicki intends to

present an ordinance amendment for consideration at the April 24th Planning Commission meeting and the May 5th Council Meeting.

We would like to invite you to visit our store prior to that meeting so that you can personally have a look at our business. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have. We are open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. (Parking is usually challenging during the lunch rush as several of our neighbors are restaurants.)

We thank you very much for your consideration of our continued efforts to remain an asset in the downtown Rapid City business community.

Barb & Patrick Paur, Mt Rushmore Birds