

**From:** [amber](#)  
**To:** [Hayley Keys](#)  
**Cc:** [Shery Meekings](#)  
**Subject:** Sandpoint Showdown Appeal notes  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 13, 2026 3:05:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Thank you for the opportunity to appeal the City's decision on The Second Annual Sandpoint Showdown. Our vision behind bringing a motorcycle rally to North Idaho is backed by a multitude of reasons. Ultimately the driving force behind this event is being of service to our community. We scheduled it during the shoulder season which benefits the local businesses of Bonner county as a whole. Shoulder season also enabled us to be "local" and focus on appealing to varied demographics. It was amazing to see such a wide cross-section of people enjoying the day. While my primary focus is on the motorcycle community we strove to make it family friendly and create a community vibe. Being our first year we had a lot to learn but overall the feedback we received was positive. Based on the items listed on our denial we feel that they are all easily fixable. We understand that the crane and mechanical bull were not listed on last year's permit. We welcome the opportunity to discuss whether we can safely add to this year's event. As for blocking gunny alley it was not our intention. When I attended the Art fair, I took pictures and based some of our set up based on what I saw there, assuming it was an established event. I understand we had a few burn-outs but with all events that are open to the public we can control what we do and better educate the attendees for next year. We are open to discussing and implementing what changes need to happen.

Last year the permitting process took longer than we expected and created challenges in securing funding to put the event on. Because of this we submitted our 2026 in a timely manner. We also requested a meeting to go over last year's event and to see if there were any changes that needed to be made. We are volunteers trying to be of service to our community. Our request for a meeting was never addressed and the response we finally received was a denial with 48 hours to respond in tiny print. We want to add value and it is frustrating to feel forced to figure out what is needed from us. If the majority of attendees and businesses downtown and in the surrounding area want this event isn't it the job of our elected officials and those who work for the city to assist us in bringing value to our town? Let's work together to create another Sandpoint Showdown that can be enjoyed by all.

Amber

On Thu, May 7, 2026, 1:33 PM Hayley Keys <[hkeys@sandpointidaho.gov](mailto:hkeys@sandpointidaho.gov)> wrote:

Hi Shery,

I wanted to follow up on our conversation from last week regarding the Sandpoint Showdown appeal. I was able to get the matter placed on the City Council's May 20 meeting agenda.

Please send along any information or supporting documents you would like included in the meeting packet, so Council members have adequate time to review them in advance. The latest we can accept these are Wednesday, May 13.

Thank you,



Hayley Keys

Deputy City Clerk | Special Event Permit Coordinator

208-946-2065

**From:** Shery Meekings <[carousel.sandpoint@gmail.com](mailto:carousel.sandpoint@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 4:12 PM  
**To:** Hayley Keys <[hkeys@sandpointidaho.gov](mailto:hkeys@sandpointidaho.gov)>  
**Cc:** amber <[allegedlywithamber@gmail.com](mailto:allegedlywithamber@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Sandpoint Showdown

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Good afternoon Haley. My spidey-senses were going off today and just happened to pop in to see if our application was approved. ...I see here in my email that we were denied. Amber and I would like to appeal this denial to City Council. This is our official written notice to appeal within 48 hours of receiving this denial email.

The Sandpoint Showdown was a great success for a "first year" event and we had an awesome turnout. We personally had hundreds of people thank us and the city for allowing this event in Downtown Sandpoint. We're asked daily if it's happening again this year and many have asked how they can be involved. I've also had wonderful feedback from 99% of our local shop owners and a even a few of our city council members. The Sandpoint Showdown without a doubt positively contributed to Sandpoint's fall shoulder season and we'd like to opportunity to host the event again in 2026.

After hosting this event one time, we are more seasoned and can now see where we need to have communication with the city when we encounter ANY changes from the original plan. We are more aware of what safety looks like from a city and police objective. We are willing to add these items (bull and crane to our application) or just eliminate them. We want to insure community safety guidelines are met and are happy too add security this year as well. We did offer private security last year but were told by the police department that they'd prefer to not have private security. As for the burnouts, I was only aware of one after the event was over. I honestly thought that was pretty good for 750 bikes in town but we want to make sure the city, police department, community members, Sandpoint and state property are well respected and honored by every guest at the event. Sure hope we get the opportunity to correct our learning curve mistakes and make this event even better than it was last year. I'd love to schedule a meeting with you Haley and appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Shery



SHERY MEEKINGS | OWNER  
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208-263-4140



On Mon, Apr 27, 2026 at 2:25 PM Hayley Keys <[hkeys@sandpointidaho.gov](mailto:hkeys@sandpointidaho.gov)> wrote:

Hi Amber,