



Story County Planning and Development
Administration Building
900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201
Ph. 515-382-7245 Fax 515-382-7294
www.storycountyiaowa.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Story County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Marcus Amman, Senior Planner
RE: Special Event Permit Ames Triathlon SE25-000002
DATE: January 27, 2026

Alex Syhlman, Race Director, True Time Racing Services for Iowa Multi-Sport is requesting a Special Event Permit for the Ames Triathlon planned for June 28, 2026, starting at Ada Hayden Park, Ames. The triathlon includes swimming, biking, and running legs to the race. The swimming and running will take place at Ada Hayden Park in Ames. The bike race will occur primarily in the unincorporated area of Story County.

County Regulation

Story County Code of Ordinance Chapter 83 generally requires applicants to submit a Special Event Permit application to be acted on by the Story County Board of Supervisors for planned events occurring over a four-hour period and involving more than 600 event staff, volunteers, participants, and spectators. The proposed triathlon will begin setup at pm on June 27, 2026, and tear down will occur by noon the same day. They anticipate up to 500 participants, coordinators, and volunteers with 100 spectators.

Planning and Development Department staff are to coordinate review of the application with the Sheriff's Office, Fire Chief (Gilbert Fire for bike race), Ambulance District (Mary Greeley), Environmental Health, Engineer's Office, Conservation Office, Emergency Management, and any other applicable agencies such as cities (Ames and Gilbert) within two miles of the event. This event also involves Ames police, fire, and parks and recreation departments and typically one meeting is coordinated between all involved. The county waived their review meeting as this is the same event type and location as previous years, but application materials were routed.

Summary of Race

Swim – 750 meters and starts at the north boat ramp area of Ada Hayden Park.

Biking – 15 miles and starts at Ada Hayden. The route is south of Ada Hayden on HWY 69, west on Bloomington Road, north on George Washington Carver, west on Cameron School Road, north on 500th Ave, east on 170th St., south on George Washington Carver, east on 190th St., south on HWY 69 to Ada Hayden Park. No roads will be closed.

Run – 3.1 miles figure eight on the paved trail at Ada Hayden

Ames Fire and the Story County Sheriff's Dive Team will be stationed at the lake during the swim. The water will be tested to ensure it is safe for swimming. Support and rescue boats will be in the water.



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Each intersection on the bike course is planned to have cones to direct cyclists/traffic, an event in progress sign, a volunteer, or Ames Police or the Story County Sheriff controlling the intersection. The applicant provided a full list of deputy locations:

- 2 deputies - Cameron School Road and GW Carver
- 1 deputy Cameron School Road and Y Ave (county line road)
- 1 deputy GW Carver and W190th Street
- 1 deputy Grand Ave/Hwy 69 north of W 190th to slow traffic

Other Plans and Procedures

For the bike route, the applicant has spoken with Christ Community Church about using their facilities as emergency weather shelters.

Mary Greeley is contracted to provide a dedicated ambulance during the event.

A copy of the certificate of liability insurance is required prior to the event.

A weather plan was submitted, and the race director has contact information for the National Weather Service for assistance. The applicant will monitor the weather and call the race if necessary.

After approval, Planning and Development will mail notification to property owners along the bike route. This mailing will go out in early June to provide adequate notice to property owners, while not being too long before that people forget about it.

Recommendation

Based on input from the departments and agencies representatives reviewing the Special Event Permit application and applicants' responses, Planning and Development staff recommend the Board of Supervisors approve **the Special Events Permit SE25-000002 with a condition that the certificate of liability insurance is provided to Planning and Development Staff prior to the event.**

Alternatives

- 1) The Story County Board of Supervisors approves the Special Event Permit as put forth in case SE25-000002.
- 2) **The Story County Board of Supervisors approves the Special Event Permit with conditions as put forth in case SE25-000002.**
- 3) The Story County Board of Supervisors denies the Special Event Permit as put forth in case SE25-000002.
- 4) The Story County Board of Supervisors tables the Special Event Permit as put forth in case SE25-000002 request back to the applicant and/or staff for further review and/or modifications, and directs staff to place this item on the Board of Supervisor's future meeting agenda.



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