

CITY OF BELLEVUE
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2015
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Conference Room 1E-112

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Wilson – Parks
Pat Harris – Parks
Loren Charlston - Fire
Titus Butcher – Transportation
Neal Christiansen – Community Representative East
Joann Warren – Community Representative Downtown
Chris Dunham – Business Representative Downtown
Mike Ogliore – Business Representative Downtown
Meredith Langridge – Special Event Promoter, Position 1
Katherine Ombrellaro– Special Event Promoter, Private

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Warner – Fire
Lt. Dave Sanabria – Police
Reilly Pittman – Development Services
Glenn Bartolome – Metro Transit
Jeanne Grote – Community Representative South
Roz Liming – Business Representative, Crossroads

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Chair Wilson who presided.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: Written and Oral – None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Ombrellaro. The motion was seconded by Ms. Warren and the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 19, 2015, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ogliore. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ombrellaro and it carried unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

❖ Routing and Location Subcommittee Report

Ms. Warren commented that during the Santa parade event people were out on NE 8th Street in the turn lane. She suggested that putting barricades up there would help. Chair Wilson said he would pass on that information.

Chair Wilson noted that all is going well for the ice skating event. Mr. Ogliore said he has been in contact with someone from the residential development across the street regarding announcements made over the public address system.

Garden d'Lights has been going well, though one evening was canceled due to a high wind warning. There have been some slow nights because of the heavy rains.

❖ Committee Liaisons Assigned to Events

Chair Wilson said he would begin contacting members early in 2016 about serving as liaisons to certain events.

6. NEW BUSINESS

❖ Post-Event Evaluation: Farm Fair

Chair Wilson said the Farm Fair event had been hampered by weather, which kept the crowds down. The organizer has expressed a desire to move the event up by a week in 2016, which will not conflict with any other event.

❖ Comments/Follow-up

Chair Wilson reported that applications for 2016 events have begun to flow in. The Committee will review the applications in January. The applications received to date include the Chamber of Commerce 12k/5k which in 2015 triggered concerns regarding the low number of participants and the amount of manpower needed to close roads and the like. While the event pays the expenses, the issue is finding the officers required to work the event. The issue was with the 12k rather than the 5k.

Other applications received to date include Fourth of July, Movies in the Park, Farm Fair, Sheep Shearing, and the Kirkland Seven Hills Ride which cuts through one corner of Bellevue. Round the Rock also submitted an application and is looking to move its date back by one weekend to two weekends after Labor Day; that could trigger conflicts with the 3-Day Walk and Cycle the Wave and could mean the event will need to be treated as a new event rather than a returning event.

Chair Wilson informed the Committee that starting in 2016 for any event taking place in a park there will likely be a requirement for staff to attend to monitor sound. That will represent an additional cost for the events to pick up. The on-site staff will be responsible for having the event coordinators turn down the sound levels if complaints are received.

Answering a question asked by Mr. Ogliore, Chair Wilson said it will likely come down to specific decibel level readings, not just subjective complaints by the public that something is too loud. The staff will also need to use their judgment.

Ms. Ombrellaro asked about the notion of the city seeking to recoup its costs where events are concerned. Chair Wilson said what Seattle did for years was cover most of the costs of events; they are now looking to have some of their costs paid by the events. Bellevue has always focused

on recouping its costs for police, fire and transportation personnel. There are other costs but there has not really been any pressure to recoup them.

Mr. Christiansen pointed out that the city's goal has not traditionally been on trying to break even. The event fees do cover things like electricity used and the manpower put into the paperwork. Chair Wilson added that the Committee must shoulder the costs of having minutes taken at the meetings, and the basic application fees help to defray those costs. Fees can be waived where the city partners with the event.

Mr. Christiansen asked if consideration has been given to having city department's budget for the events they partner rather than simply having the fees waived entirely. Chair Wilson said the events benefit the city on a variety of levels, not the least of which is encouraging residents to be active and healthy, and those benefits count against the costs in non-monetary ways.

Ms. Langridge pointed out that the arts fairs cost the city a lot in terms of police and fire coverage. That is something the partners should be fully aware of and should acknowledge. Chair Wilson agreed and commented that the events also pull in extra revenues for the city.

Chair Wilson said he intends to monitor the actions Seattle decides to take relative to recouping their costs.

7. NEXT MEETING

❖ January 14, 2015

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.