

CITY OF BELLEVUE
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2016
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Conference Room 1E-112

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Wilson – Parks
Pat Harris – Parks
Titus Butcher – Transportation
Capt. John McCracken – Police
Neal Christiansen – Community Representative East
Roz Liming – Business Representative, Crossroads
Chris Dunham – Business Representative Downtown
Mike Ogliore – Business Representative Downtown
Linda D’Amato – Business Representative Downtown

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Warner – Fire
Lt. Dave Sanabria – Police
Reilly Pittman – Development Services
Glenn Bartolome – Metro Transit
Meredith Langridge – Special Event Promoter, Position 1
Jeanne Grote – Community Representative South
Joann Warren – Community Representative Downtown
Katherine Ombrellaro – Special Event Promoter, Private

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Franzen, Parks
Claude Isso, City Manager’s Office

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 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 Mr. Ogliore. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dunham and the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 12, 2016, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Ogliore. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dunham and it carried unanimously.

There was agreement to revise the agenda to move up the discussion about Spirit of Bellevue to accommodate the visitors.

6. NEW BUSINESS

❖ Post-Event Evaluation: Spirit of Bellevue

Betty Capestany from the Chamber of Commerce informed the Committee that the event drew almost 500 participants, with a nearly even split in each event. The weather was less than perfect. The new route required less police assistance and indeed fewer volunteers. The participants were from three different countries and five different states. No feedback was received from residents regarding noise, and the vendors like being contained in one area.

Mr. Harris said from his perspective the event is very well run. He said there was no impact at all on the park.

Chair Wilson said he heard no concerns from the neighbors. He said the old route involved a number of intersections that the new route avoided.

Capt. McCracken said the new route was an improvement over the previous route. The concern for the future is how construction on the light rail system will impact the route.

Ms. Capestany said consideration has been given to avoiding the 112th Avenue SE area altogether. She said there has also been some uncertainty with regard to whether or not construction in Downtown Park will trigger the need to change the finish line.

Chair Wilson said the city is moving forward on the understanding that the Downtown Park project will happen. The bids came in well over the cost estimates, but the Council is set to make a final decision at its meeting on June 20. If all goes forward as planned, there will be some impacts. The west parking lot should, however, be open by the time of the Chamber run in 2017. The start line may need to be moved.

Ms. Capestany said she is aware of the need to be flexible going forward as construction on the park and the light rail system goes forward. Mr. Butcher pointed out the need to work together as early as possible with regard to rerouting. He suggested touching base at the beginning of the year, by which time staff will have a better handle on what will be happening. It will also be necessary to be clear well in advance as to the roles and responsibilities of setup and the like.

Mr. Ogliore asked if the Chamber is happy with the date for the event. Ms. Capestany said if the world were perfect a different weekend would be chosen. However, the date is much better than a date in August or in the fall.

5. OLD BUSINESS

❖ Routing and Location Subcommittee Report

Mr. Butcher said he and Lt. Sanabria have been working on the Fourth of July celebration.

Chair Wilson said he heard from the organizer of the Komen 3-Day about their desire to simplify the event and that they may not want to use Wilburton Park. What that will mean remains to be seen.

6. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

❖ July 4 Update

Capt. McCracken reported that no significant changes from past years are planned for the event. A new organizer is in place and will be ready to go. Everyone is hoping for good weather.

Chair Wilson allowed that the event has become a well-oiled machine. While there will always be minor tweaks required, overall the plan moves a lot of people in and out very smoothly.

❖ Comments/Follow-up

Chair Wilson said he Mr. Ogliore have been working closely with Mr. Harris and the parks department on alternatives for the ice rink. It was hoped that the work to demolish the old ballet school site would yield a flat area to put the rink, but the site probably will not be suitable for use until early in January. The second option is Ashwood Park. Mr. Ogliore has been working with the library and has been doing outreach with the neighbors. Hidden Valley Park has been taken off the table because there really is no good place there to site the rink; it cannot be located in the parking lot without confusing the one-way traffic flow. Wilburton has been considered as well but that would mean having to make the rink smaller.

Mr. Christiansen asked if the rink could be sited on the ballfields at Hidden Valley Park. Chair Wilson said the weight of the rink and the degree to which it compresses what it sits on has to be considered. Mr. Harris added that it would be inappropriate to use the site given the new infrastructure, including drainage and irrigation. Chair Wilson pointed out that Ashwood does not have any of those infrastructure concerns.

Chair Wilson said the list of upcoming events includes the Strawberry Festival and the Lake to Lake bike ride.

Mr. Butcher said he received word about the Lake to Lake bike ride regarding someone out in a live lane of traffic painting an arrow on the road using a stencil. He said because the event is not required to have a special events permit and therefore is not subject to a formal condition process, actions of that sort are not regulated.

Chair Wilson said even absent needing a special event permit, events can still be directed to obtain a right-of-way permit. He said another option would be to develop a new special events permit applicable to such events, something that would have a much lower cost but would still require at least a brief review. Chair Wilson said the Committee can also choose to waive permit fees, but caution should be taken in doing so given that there is always some level of staff time required.

Ms. Liming asked who is responsible for creating event signs. Mr. Butcher said it will be a requirement for the Ukrainian festival organizer to create and post signs. Chair Wilson said Flavors of India will have the same requirement.

Mr. Butcher said the Routing and Location subcommittee will need to meet with the Ukrainian festival organizer because some of what they are talking about doing will require police support and road configurations.

Chair Wilson said they are looking to grow the event into something quite large. The first year they are expecting between 4000 and 5000 people. The organizer has been told the event will not be able to go past 8:00 p.m. They also want to have a fishing pond set up but that element has not

yet been approved.

Mr. Butcher said he would set up a meeting with the organizer after July 4 and that he would then follow-up with Ms. Liming to let her know where things stand.

With regard to the GTOAA convention at the Hilton, Mr. Butcher said he has directed the organizer to redo their proposed traffic control plan to include greater detail, and to apply for a permit. Neither has been done yet but they are expected.

Mr. Ogliore said Live at Lunch begins on July 5. The first one will be at City Center Plaza.

7. NEXT MEETING

❖ July 14, 2016

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.