

CITY OF BELLEVUE
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2023
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Charbonneau - Parks
Mark Anderson – Fire
Mike Shovlin – Police
Landon Barnwell – Police
Christopher Rivera – Transportation
Casiano Atienza – Transportation
Neal Christiansen – Community Representative East
Mike Ogliore – Business Representative Downtown
Laurie Scott – Downtown Resident Representative
Jonathan Rose – King County Metro

OTHERS PRESENT: Brad Bennett, Imane Elmesbahi, Parks; Councilmember Lee; Ellen Montanana – Emergency Management; Claude Iosso – City Manager’s Office; Rick Logwood – Transportation

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Brad Bennett who presided.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: Written and Oral – None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Laurie Scott. The motion was seconded by Mike Ogliore and the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 9, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Neal Christiansen. The motion was seconded by and the motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Routing and Location Subcommittee Report

Casiano Atienza reported that the subcommittee met with the organizers for Cry Holi, Kelsey Creek Sheepshearing, Bellevue Four on the Fourth Dog Jog and Walk, and Bellevue Family 4th. Also under review is the All In For Autism 5K and 10K Run which will utilize the same route that was approved in 2020.

Brad Bennett noted from the February minutes there had been a discussion about Cry Holi needing a parking plan and asked if that has been taken care of. There also had been a discussion about the powders being flammable and questions asked about what should be done to prevent a fire from occurring. Casiano Atienza said the event organizer has submitted a parking plan for the event, which primarily involves paid parking and carpooling/vanpooling. It has been made clear with the organizer that parking at Bellevue Square or in the nearby neighborhoods is not permitted.

Christopher Rivera said the Cry Holi organizer did send out notices asking participants not to plan to park at the Bellevue Square mall and indicating that there are paid parking locations nearby.

Mark Anderson said the flammability issue has been addressed with the event organizer who provided proof that the powders used do not fall into the flammability risk category.

6. OLD BUSINESS

❖ Tabled Events: Northwest Ukrainian International Festival

Brad Bennett noted that one of the biggest issues related to the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival moving from Crossroads Park to Downtown Park is parking. The notion of getting Kemper Development Company to allow parking at Bellevue Square was discussed at the Committee's February meeting, but that approval was not given. The event organizer is exploring other options for parking, but needs approval for date, time and location so the work of advertising the event can move forward.

Rick Logwood commented that the size and scope of the event likely will attract people wanting to drive to it. Given that there have been spillover issues within the adjacent residential community, and even though there may be a reasonable amount of other on-street public parking areas, approval of the time, date and location should not be given until there is a full understanding of the mitigation measures to address the neighborhood impacts. King County Metro operates in the area but with limited routes in proximity to Downtown Park.

Brad Bennett noted that at the February Committee meeting Jonathan Rose with King County Metro pointed out that on the same day as the Ukrainian Festival there is a Husky home game, so their buses will be tied up.

Neal Christiansen asked how many people have traditionally attended the Festival event. Brad Bennett said the projection is for around 18,000. That is a large number, and while the park can handle the capacity, it is the neighborhood and surrounding communities that are impacted by parking. It would make sense to set up shuttle services and pick-up/drop-off sites for Uber and Lyft, but the Committee needs to know exactly what the overall parking plan will be.

Rick Logwood suggested that Kemper Development Company will also want to know what the parking plan is so that they will not inadvertently become the default for event attendees.

Councilmember Lee pointed out that in the past some events have operated shuttles between Downtown Park and Bellevue High School. Brad Bennett said that option was suggested to the event organizer at the Committee's February meeting. To date, nothing has been heard about any outreach to the school district. Nearby churches offer additional parking options that could be explored.

Brad Bennett stated that at the February meeting the historical impact resulting from the boiling cooking pots was raised by parks and the need for that to be addressed. There was also talk of operating remote boats in the pond and setting up a fishing pond. Mark Anderson said the event organizer has not reached out to fire regarding that issue. A plan will need to be submitted indicating locations and how it will be addressed.

Chad Charbonneau said the conclusion of park is that the fishing pond cannot be located in the center of the turf of the center circle as indicated by the event organizer. That was addressed at the last meeting but there has been no follow-up yet by the organizer.

A motion to delay approving date, time and location for the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival until a valid parking plan is submitted was made by Neal Christiansen. The motion was seconded by Laurie Scott and the motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

❖ Application of Intent: Bellevue Acton Children's Business Fair

Reading from the application, Brad Bennett noted that the event will include a business fair and hands-on experience. The request is for the use of Downtown Park on July 23, July 30 and August 6 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., with setup starting at 10:00 a.m. and take down concluding by 6:00 p.m. About 100 participants and 250 spectators are expected along with about ten volunteers. They are planning to have some tents and shelters, signs and banners, and vendors.

Brad Bennett questioned the need for approval by the Special Events Committee based on the number of participants, which is under the threshold of 500.

Lauri Scott asked if the request was to hold the event on three different days, or on just one of the three dates proposed. Brad Bennett allowed that the application indicates three dates, their timeline shows two dates, and under equipment setup there is an allusion to the fact that it might only be one date.

Imane Elmsebahi expressed the understanding that the event organizer is planning the event for only one day. The organizer has indicated the kids business fair is hoping to have 50 vendors, which is why it needs approval by the Special Events Committee.

Mike Ogliore said if the event is to be a one-day affair it is less of an issue than if the event is to occur on three different Sundays.

Councilmember Lee asked who the sponsor is and why the event needs so many vendors. Brad Bennett indicated that little is known about that. It sounds like the event is in the early planning stages and needs to have more thorough vetting.

Casiano Atienza asked if the event has occurred in the past or if it is new. Brad Bennett noted being unaware of the history of the event but expressed the assumption that it is a new event.

A motion to wait for more definitive information before approving the date, time and location for the event was made by Laurie Scott. The motion was seconded by Mike Ogliore and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ Event Organizers Presentations – None

❖ Post-Event Evaluations – None

❖ Comments / Follow-up

7. NEXT MEETING

❖ April 13, 2023

8. ADJOURNMENT

Brad Bennett adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.