

CITY OF BELLEVUE
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2024
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Freeburg – Parks
Andy Oltman – Fire
Kyle Nelson – Fire
Landon Barnwell – Police
Casiano Atienza – Transportation
Mike Ogliore – Business Representative Downtown
Laurie Scott – Downtown Resident Representative
Eric Stewart – King County Metro

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily Martella, Parks; Andy Heider, Parks; Patrick Hamilton, Fire; Maggie Whittemore, Fire; Claude Iosso, City Manager’s Office; Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach; Lizette Flores, Jefferson Eusell

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair Freeburg who presided.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: Written and Oral – None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the April 11, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Laurie Scott. The motion was seconded by Mike Ogliore and the motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Routing and Location Subcommittee Report

Casiano Atienza reported that since the Committee’s previous meeting the All In For Autism and the 2 Line opening events occurred. There was some specific feedback for transportation regarding logistics and the like; nothing significant.

Maggie Whittemore added that the Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing event also occurred and went

well. All In For Autism went well and the only issue was the need to make sure the event organizer is also in charge of the vendors and is responsible for relaying information to them. The 2 Line event also went well.

Landon Barnwell said police had encountered no issues.

Andy Heider said the same was true for parks.

6. OLD BUSINESS

❖ Snowflake Lane

Chair Freeburg commented that since the previous Committee meeting some research was conducted to determine what might solve some of the problems encountered in the past.

Kyle Nelson said fire prevention was not yet ready to vote on the event, but allowed that the department would be ready in a few weeks. Landon Barnwell said the same was true for police

Casiano Atienza said a scheduled logistics meeting has been pushed back since other departments need a little more time, including transportation.

Chair Freeburg asked Landon Barnwell to reach out to the event organizer to provide an update. Landon Barnwell agreed to do so.

6. NEW BUSINESS

❖ Post-Event Evaluation: Holi Festival of Color

Chair Freeburg noted from the post-event evaluation that according to the event organizer the event had a rolling 4000 to 5000 attendees. The weather was good and the program seemed to go well. The challenges encountered included managing trash disposal; ensuring that the food vendors cleaned up; and problems the volunteers had controlling traffic and parking once the parking lot reached capacity due to the high attendance. There were no real safety concerns, but the organizer believes that next year police assistance may be needed to regulate traffic flow and parking, and to facilitate entry and exit.

Maggie Whittemore reported that all went well as far as fire was concerned.

Chair Freeburg suggested that overall the event was successful.

❖ Beats of Redmond – Indian Independence Day

Chair Freeburg reminded the Committee that the group applied for the event in January, but the dates sought were not available and the application was not approved. The group has since approached city leadership trying to determine how to hold the event on August 15. Parks does not believe the event can be accommodated as requested.

The organizer came to the city on May 8 along with the Indian Consulate General and the request has been expanded to include a parade in addition to the event in the park. Their initial idea was to have the parade down Bellevue Way on a Thursday afternoon, with bleachers erected on the side of the road. The organizer was told that would not be possible for a number of

reasons. The organizer then indicated a willingness to hold the event at Crossroads Park. An event is already scheduled for that location on August 16 and 17, with setup occurring on the 15th.

The Committee members were to weigh in on the notion of allowing the Indian Independence Day event on August 15 should the already scheduled event change and the August 15 date become available. The parade would occur at 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. The route used by Flavors of India for their parade was mentioned.

Kyle Nelson said that route starts on NE 6th Street by the Jewish day school, comes out to 156th Avenue NE and goes northbound, then goes eastbound on NE 8th Street to the park entrance. The Flavors of India parade, which takes place on a Saturday, takes about an hour to complete.

Andrew Oltman commented that having a parade down NE 8th Street in front of the fire station would create a problem for fire response capabilities. Both NE 6th Street and 156th Avenue NE are key arterials. It might require some additional staffing on the part of fire to position on either side of the parade.

Chair Freeburg voiced a concern over having the event on a weekday late afternoon when traffic can be expected to be high. The Committee is free to say no to the request. If the August 15 date becomes available, a decision will be made before the next Committee meeting.

Casiano Atienza said voiced concern about holding an event during rush hour on a Thursday afternoon in the area of Crossroads Park. If the event goes forward, the organizer will need to submit a full traffic control plan and have it approved. The organizer will also have to coordinate with National Barricade. The Flavors of India route likely would take the least amount of time to review given that it has been done before.

Kyle Nelson said involvement on the part of fire prevention would be minimal for the parade.

Chair Freeburg stated that given the Consulate General's involvement, the parade is likely to be very large.

Eric Stewart said the proposed parade route would have a fairly large impact on King County Metro's operations at that time of day, affecting at least three routes and up to 16 stops. Only a tentative yes was offered.

Landon Barnwell said Flavors of India generally involves about ten officers for the parade. The biggest concerns with the proposal include staffing the event on a weekday, the day of the week, and the time of day. There would be impacts to traffic.

Andy Heider said parks is not concerned about the parade. The question asked was if leadership would be involved, meaning the event will happen no matter what. Chair Freeburg said leadership is involved because the organizer did not like that the park was not available and took the issue to the top. There is no thinking that the event will happen no matter what, however. An event is scheduled for the park already, and unless something happens to change that fact, there is not much that can be done about it. Nothing has been promised.

❖ Comments/Follow-Up

Kyle Nelson noted that in 2023 the Wine Walk event required a Special Event Permit. The event, slated for the upcoming weekend, is not shown as having an approved event. Chair Freeburg said the event had not come to her attention and asked if the event would be going forward without closing any roads. The 2023 version of the event, which had involvement on the part of the economic development team, was different from previous years when the event was more passive.

Casiano Atienza allowed not having heard anything about the Wine Walk event.

Kyle Nelson said if the event will only involve people walking in and out of stores, the Committee should not have to be involved.

7. NEXT MEETING

❖ June 13, 2024

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Freeburg adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.