

Special Events Committee Meeting
03/11/2021
Video Conference Call

Member Representatives in Attendance:

Agency	Representatives	Noted in Minutes As
Citizen Representative	Tom Anderson	Citizen Representative
Department of Construction & Inspections	Dan Powers	DCI Noise Abatement
Department of Neighborhoods	Ed Pottharst	DON
Finance and Administrative Services	Brenda Strickland	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Glenn Bartolome	Metro
Mayor's Office	Not Present	MO
Parks and Recreation	Carl Bergquist	Parks
Seattle-King County Health Department	Rosemary Byrne	Health
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	Seattle Center
Seattle Department of Transportation	Not Present	SDOT
Seattle Fire Department	Tom Heun	SFD
Seattle Police Department	Lt. Bryan Clenna	SPD
Seattle Public Utilities	Not Present	SPU
Special Events Office	Chris Swenson	Chair
	Julie Borden	SE
	Meli Darby	SE
	Jonelle Mogi	SE
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Victor Hopkins	WSLCB
Special Events Committee		SEC
Special Events Office		SEO

Additional Attendees: Jason Pierce – SFD Medic One, Beth Lehman – WSLCB, Meredith Stone – FAS

Note: As always, these are “raw minutes notes” based on the discussion of the 3/11/2021 meeting and do not include every word spoken—not a literal transcript—merely a summary of ideas.

Committee Discussion

- Roundtable
- Meeting Minute Review and Vote
 - January 14, 2021 and February 11, 2021
 - No edits received by email to SEO, no additional edits
 - SPD makes the motion, Seattle Center seconds; All in favor, none opposed

Committee Business

SEC Reopening Memo

Chris Swenson, Special Events Committee Chair, Meli Darby, Special Events Office

- Memo transmitted to OED, MO, and CBO in February
- No updates to SPD support based on allowed activity and budget restrictions as it relates to their ability to support major events
- City Council in conversation now about additional cuts to SPD; Seattle Police Operations Center (SPOC) has limitations to participate in coordinating and review of event proposals, film, and stadium events
- One consideration is to add an update on the impacts of further SPD cuts and updates to Washington State Phase guidelines
- Seattle Center – With the latest news, is ASSET aware of new development or internal for now
- Chair – SEO has not had conversation with ASSET or Film Task Force, but looking to do that in the next days; First step is background information sharing; City is making progress for recovery and reopening, part of that will be public activation, safety, and security

SEC allowable activities memo (new request/issue)

Chris Swenson, Special Events Committee Chair, Meli Darby, Special Events Office

- Currently SEO involved with an interdepartmental group to discuss permitting and reopening permissions
- SEO is overseeing SEC allowable activity; Other departments providing information on their own permitting
- Intent is to provide recommendations on what each department can support under each phase guidance i.e., Parks permitting events with under 5 people, but State guidance is different
- Phase 2 State Guidance
 - Religious and Faith Based Organizations
 - 200 max capacity, (2) households seated together per group, 6' distance between groups, must comply with Outdoor and Open-Air Seating Guidance
 - Weddings, Funerals, and Events
 - 200 max capacity, Groups of 15, limit (2) households, 6' between groups - If food or drinks are served, eating and drinking requirements apply
 - Racing: Non-motorized and Motorized
 - 1500 runners per day (500 max participants starting per hour, capped at 3 hours per day), Waves of <30, 1 wave per minute - Starting area limit 100 participants, 6' feet distance maintained, Spectator's limit 200 max, groups of 15, 2 households, 6' distance between groups
 - Miscellaneous Venues
 - Large Outdoor Retail: - 200 people occupancy, Large venues over 100,000 sq.ft. in size, 300 occupancy - (includes exhibitors, excludes staff). Indoor Retail Event: - 25% capacity, up to 200 people - (includes exhibitors, excludes staff), whichever is fewer.
 - Theater and Performing Arts
 - Outdoor: - Groups up to 15 people, limited (2) households per group. 6' separation - Max 200 individuals including artists, crew, and audience may be in the designated area. - 3 hour time limit on all performances/events. Indoor: - Max capacity 25% of venue/space or 200 people, whichever is less. - Groups limited to 6 people, must maintain 6' separation.
- Phase 3 guidance coming soon
 - Theater and Performing Arts
 - Stadium Events

Seattle Center – Currently not allowing food/beverage service and open public except Protected Free Speech until the end of May; Internally vetting Phase 2 event operations procedures; Seattle Center considers themselves a Misc. Venue and have staffing limitations except where reimbursable; Armory

remains closed to the public, so restroom access is limited to the outdoor facility on the north side of campus

Parks – Across the board guidelines, only exception is day camp groups; Requires COVID safety plan prior to permitting for events that qualify

Seattle Center – Aiming for Naturalization Ceremony on July 4th as the first major public event; Very tentative, general turn to more normal operations by beginning of January; Seattle Center has modified SEC's CHAMP document for all producers to plan around health and safety as a requirement of their license to use campus

SFD – FMO reviewing occupancy as normal, organizers will need to provide mitigation and operation plan that fits into State Guidelines; No additional restrictions

Medic One – Nothing to add for special requirements; If medic is requested by organizers, charge vendor and stadium; Pass through to event organizer

DON – No extra restrictions, DON will be able to support Special Events apps

FAS – No other restrictions, follow guide given by SEC and Governor

WSLCB – No other restrictions

Chair – Mike (SDOT) role is in transitioning to be distributed to a team; Currently discussing how TCP development and review process will work in future state; Mike has been SDOT representative on SEC, so will need to follow up after meeting

Public Health – Health gets involved when food is sold at events and also involved with Farmers Market; Health will look at any events where people have food, current state guidelines and social distancing must be maintained; Currently allowing inside dining within the farmers market and prepared food will be allowed; In regard to phase guidelines, what would be considered retail event?

SE – SLU Saturday Market would fall under retail event in regard to occupancy; Organizer would need to maintain 200 occupancy includes exhibitors, but excludes staff

Metro – In consideration of current limited services of bus routes and rider occupancy, Metro must take critical look at any additional impacts and disruption to regular Metro routing; In September North Gate Link Light Rail comes online, so will need to see how that changes how people get to events

SPD – No SPD available for traffic control or security; Currently exploring what will happen at stadium events

SE – Next round of subcommittee meetings to dive into guidance heard about stadium events

Citizen Representative – How is this communicated to event producer? Encouragement to submit permits and understand what requirements might be, but important to let everyone know by submitting permits early we can build the case that these depts need to be involved in Special Event Process

Upcoming Meetings

- 3/18/21 - Subcommittee Meeting
- 4/1/21 Subcommittee Meeting
- 4/8 – SEC FULL
- One month away of SEC administrative decision for permit suspension; Waiting on updates that may come together from State; SEO asking SEC to consider more specifics, hybrid of suspension based on what is allowable/not allowable while sharing to event organizers
- Still are no assurances or projections for major event allowances; Next full meeting looking to vote on updating ongoing suspension and what it may look like
- SPD – By then, will have better idea for non-uniformed police officers at intersections; State voting RCW