



Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2024

Via WebEx Meeting

Member and Partner Representatives in Attendance:

Agency	Representatives	Noted in Minutes As
Department of Neighborhoods	Sonny Nguyen	DON
Finance and Administrative Services Licensing	Toner Eren	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Jonathan Rose	METRO
King County Metro Transit	Eric Stewart	METRO
Mayor's Office	N/A	MAYOR
Parks and Recreation	N/A	PARKS
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Keith Wyatt	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Police Department	N/A	POLICE / SDP
Seattle Police Department/Traffic	Captain Bryan Clenna	SPD Traffic
Seattle Dept. of Construction & Inspec/ Noise	Anthony Jagow (Tony)	SDCI Noise
Seattle Dept. of Construction & Inspec / Noise	Dan Powers	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Jack Bighorse	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	Ming Leung	SKCPH
Seattle Public Utilities	Joycelyn Chui	SPU
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Lt Robert Rieder	WSLCB
Special Events Office	Kiah Patzkowsky	CHAIR
Special Events Permit Specialist	Hannah Tyo	SE
Special Events Permit Specialist	Alex Mielcarek	SE
Special Events Permit Admin II	Leslie Kodish	SE

Additional Attendees:

- Bonnie Lackey - Alexander Party Rentals;
- Brent Lebegue, Mary Paterson, Aedan McCall, Andrea O’Ferrall – Airshow Climate Action Committee; Rosemary Moore, Susan Moskwa, Mary Hodder, Beth Brunton;
- Laura Gibbons & Wes Dorne – Downtown Holiday Tree Lighting
- Jason Lajeunesse & Caleb Palma - DayDream State.

Public Comments

- Iris Antman - resident of Seattle, District 2, member of Airshow Climate Action Committee, Lived in Columbia City and now Hillman city. Object to Blue Angels due to pollution and noise, PTSD impact for war victims. Please celebrate Seafair without the Blue Angels. and end military airshows.
- Mary Hodder- resident of Wallingford. Concern with the number of events at Gas Works Park and how information is displayed in Special Events website and meeting agendas. Concern with the impact of noise from events, as well as of event-goers parking in the neighborhood and how that impacts emergency vehicles' ability to navigate narrow streets. Request that events are not permitted at Gas Works Park in 2025 until issues with trash, noise, parking can be addressed and requests an environmental impact study on the neighborhood.
- Susan Moskwa- request removal of Blue Angels from Seafair due to climate change and industrial pollution.
- Rosemary Moore – resident of Mercer Island. Concern with noise from Blue Angels at Seafair.

Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 10/10/2024 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.

Roundtable/Announcements

- CHAIR: Any announcements?
- SE: Thank you for Seattle residents and community for joining us and commenting.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

- CHAIR: Do we have a quorum?
- SE: Yes

Meeting Minute Approval

- Vote to approve September 12, minutes.
- No comments. Vote to approve. SC: Move to approve. SDOT: Second
- SE Committee all vote to approve the minutes. All in favor and no one opposed.

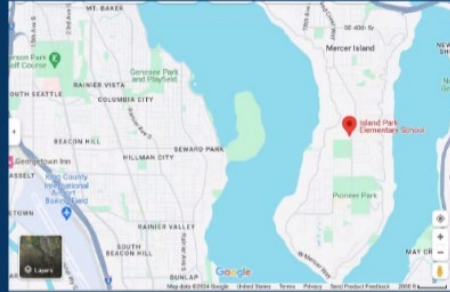
Airshow Climate Action Committee - Seattle Campaign presentation

- Dr. Breck Lebegue: As a member of the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) and retired Air Force member in the medical field, have concerns about health impacts of air show at Seafair. Displayed slides. Reports that he liaised directly with Seattle King County Public Health and shared that Public Health does not measure noise or air quality at Seafair and rather are focused on food safety. Requests consideration of noise and air quality assessment of Seafair. Due to concern with noise pollution and air pollution caused by jet fuel particulate matter, request the Blue Angels stop flying. Discussed history of Seafair and shift away from other programming elements such as burning ships.

The Case for Ending the Era of the Blue Angels ~Noise Pollution~

Noise pollution is especially harmful to:

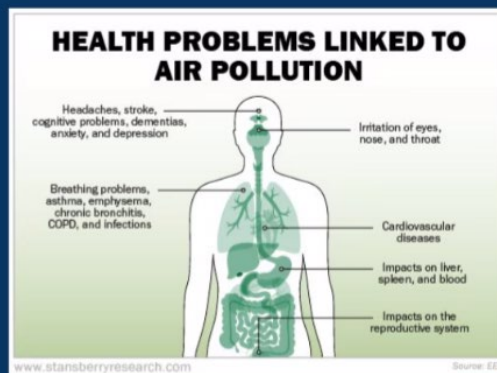
- Children
- Survivors of war
- People with sensory processing disorders like Autism and ADHD
- Animals (pets, birds, and marine animals)



>90 dBAs at Island Park Elementary 2022
110 dBAs at Genesee Park SeaFair 2024

The Case for Ending the Era of the Blue Angels ~Air Pollution~

- Jet Fuel Particulate Matter linked with lung and heart illness, cancer, shorter life span (under SEA approaches/departures)
- PM 2.5 can get into brain: higher levels in dementia, Parkinson's



- Aedan McCall - 350 Seattle: Concern with impact that airshows have on environment – suggest comparing Seattle's climate values and priorities to the impact of air show's emissions and noise pollution. Shared comparison of jet fuel usage at air shows to the impact of vehicle usage. Aviation has a global warming effect 3X that of its CO2 emissions alone. Protect our natural environment.
- Dr. Lebegue: Request committee consider our proposal to end the Blue Angels, and request for a more balanced job fair at Seafair that expands beyond military recruitment.
- Andrea O'Ferrall - Extinction Rebellion: Referenced editorial in Seattle Times over Seafair Weekend suggesting to honor the past but bid farewell to the Blue Angels. Referenced survey from editor showing public concern with the Blue Angels' impact to the environment. Let's reimagine Seafair. Does local business, shops and restaurants benefit or suffer? Does the City recover costs for SPD and Parks staff. Blue Angels impact our climate, need to lower our carbon emissions.

Public Support for Ending the Era of the Blue Angels

Seattle Times Weighs in:

On August 2, the Times published Dr. Breck Lebeque's OpEd, "Let's Honor the Past but Bid Farewell to the Blue Angels".

After 2024 airshow, a Seattle Times Editor did a simple survey - Yes or No on Blue Angels

- In 24 hrs, feedback was 2:1 for discontinuing the Blue Angels
- Closed the survey after 24 hrs, claiming that activists had skewed the results.



Petition on Change.org



Local Media promotes the Blue Angels, without giving the public all the facts.

- 350 Seattle: Re-imagine Seafair. Proposed alternatives for peace and climate justice.
- SPD Traffic: Do these concerns expand to hydroplanes, or just air show component of Seafair?
- WPSR: Not anti-Seafair. Need a separate look.
- 350 Seattle: Not about cancelling the weekend – it's about shifting what the weekend is about.
- McCall: Hope to mitigate fossil fuel use
- SPD Traffic: Have you contacted stadiums regarding fly-overs for National Anthem at sporting events?
- Dr. Lebeque: Have not, exposure to noise longer is worse.
- 350 Seattle: Not at this time
- METRO: Have you shared concerns directly with Seafair?
- WPSR: No, we have not.
- CHAIR: Do you want an introduction to the Seafair chair?
- WPSR: Yes, please include all three of us.

Downtown Holiday Tree Lighting & Fireworks S24N0365

- ORG: Libby Dover, Dover Entertainment and Downtown Seattle Association; Wes Dorne (DSA). Slides displayed. Event is November 29 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eliminated musical stage at Westlake Park, shifting programming to Westlake Plaza balcony. No carousel or parade this year. This is a free community event. No globe sculptures. Canopy lighting up high. Footprint includes Westlake Park & Plaza, Pine St between 3rd Ave & 5th Ave. Estimate 7,000 attendance which varies based on weather. Largest crowd expected around 5:10 pm which typically disperses starting at approx. 5:25pm. Load out expected to begin at 6:00 pm once crowd disperses.

❁ *Key Elements & Timeline* ❁



The Tree Lights (Westlake Plaza)

*At
Approximately 5:15 p.m.*

The Holiday Star Lights

*followed by a 2 minute and
20 second fireworks display*

Water-Soluble Confetti canons launch

*at the crescendo of the fireworks
display at about 5:18 p.m.*

- ORG: Pine St between 4th & 5th closed starting at approx. 9am. Will liaise with SPD regarding closure of fireworks exclusion zone; event staff to be on hand to assist in closure. Explained vendors using for pyro, security.



- ORG: Request for SDOT: Pine Street (4th and 5th) closed for one hour on Wednesday, November 27 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- SPD: Plan to liaise separately with ORG to coordinate staffing.
- SFD: Coordinating site visit with pyrotechnics provider.
- ORG: Neighborhood group text using WhatsApp during event.
- Mary Hodder: Can you do fireworks that don't have sound, since the sound is artificially added anyway? Fireworks scare kids and people with PTSD.
- ORG: The sound that is heard is a 2.30 min orchestra piece to be played during firework show. I don't recall them being super loud.
- DSA: Fireworks are over quickly and not as loud as July Fourth.
- SFD: Can we meet to discuss the businesses that need to shut down for the exclusion zone.
- ORG: Yes, will coordinate.
- SFD: METRO note to message transit tunnel access due to fireworks exclusion zones.
- METRO: Obstacle with weekday Pine Street Closures. Issues with trolleys transitioning to battery power, limited route for the wires. Discussed alternative routes, including possibility of reroute to utilize Pike St at 1st Ave.
- CHAIR: Need to get an update from SDOT for solution for keeping trolleys on wires. Crowd size creates public safety concern if buses were to continue on Pine St during event.
- ORG: Public safety concern- it is dangerous to have traffic on rehearsal day. In past had issues with buses on Pine Street and visibility blocked.

- METRO: We are aware and haven't done it since. Would only work with a uniformed police office controlling traffic.
- CHAIR: Do you need help to facilitate meetings?
- ORG: I have their contact information and will coordinate.

CHBP 2025 Planning Update

- ORG: Capitol Hill Block Party/DayDream State - Jason Lajeunesse and Evan Johnson. Planning on the same site and date pattern on third weekend in July. Have had conversations with the Special Events Office and SFD and have considered feedback from community members. Friday challenge in 2024 stemmed from the explosion in popularity of an artist from the time of their booking to Festival date, also experienced by several other festivals across the country with this specific artist. Did not sell more tickets than normal, but patrons used site differently than is typical with everyone wanting to be at main stage at the same time, combined with many likely first-time festival-goers. Reported medical call trends for Friday, with no major injuries. Discussed infrastructure adjustments – added barricades to create access pathway on south side of Pike St and delay speaker towers and monitors further back in crowd. ADA platform allowed for more overflow space at front of stage. Passed out 50 to 75 cases of water into the crowd. Chappelle Roan (singer) had unforeseeable effect on our festival. Overcrowding impact as crowd gathered in same area vs. using entire space. SPD collaboration was fabulous in making a safe event. Last-minute rental of gas station at Broadway & Pike St provided space for members of public without Festival tickets to have safe listening area not on sidewalks on Broadway.

2025 MAP CHANGES

In light of some challenges we faced in 2024, we're proposing some map changes for 2025 that will increase accessibility for medics and SPD to our main stage area.



- ORG: Discussed the maps, barricade, and proposed changes for 2025. Move medic tent behind stage for quick access and efficient transport if needed, add medical staffing from other medical staffing suppliers. Adjust barricades to help with flow of patrons, plan to repeat barricade along south side of Pike St at curb to create pathway for extraction. Angling beer garden perimeter will improve fire lane and crowd flow at 10th & Pike.
- SC: Respect pivots that happened in 2024 and adjustments being made for 2025.
- ORG: Queer/Bar has inquired about shifting a stage closer to their business on 11th, could help with decongestion of Festival space. Would need to discuss benefits and impact with the neighbors. If occurs will propose the revised map. We can keep you updated.
- CHAIR: Thank you for the planning, and pre-meetings to discuss solutions.

Special Events Past Events for Review

- CHAIR: Comments on how this event went?

Event Dates for Review 09/11/2024 to 10/09/2024

Name of Event	Permit No.	Event Start Date
Boats Afloat Show. SFD: One safety issue needed to be addressed. Event on top of it.	S24SE278	9/13/2024
<p>Mascot Run Club – Diplo Run Club 5K. CHAIR: Lots of Pre-event conversation. PARKS on vacation. SPD Traffic: Traffic went better than expected, last minute route change. SE: received one email from a local business</p> <p>Mary Hodder: Questioned participation numbers, impact of noise in the neighborhood, impact of participants parking in neighborhood.</p> <p>CHAIR: Reference our calendar which shows events that require a special event permit. Calendar of Events - Special Events Office seattle.gov</p>	S24SE026	9/13/2024
Orca Half Marathon	S24SE164	9/14/2024
<p>Leschi ArtWalk (12th Annual) SE: Late vendor list, working with event to get them timely. FAS: Hope event will be better.</p>	S24SE252	9/14/2024
Access Walk	S24SE260	9/14/2024
White Rabbit Group & The Euphoria Project Present Flux Pavilion (9.14) SPD: Good set up and organization.	S24SE262	9/14/2024
Sea Mar Fiestas Patrias Parade	S24SE281	9/14/2024
RapidRide G Line Community Celebration	S24SE346	9/14/2024
March to the Game for Recovery Day	S24SE170	9/15/2024
Fremont Sunday Market 35th Year Anniversary Celebration	S24SE319	9/15/2024
<p>Amazon Accelerate Party. SC: Went well, curious on feedback. Public use space on Seattle Center Campus closed earlier than expect and we had an arena event same night. Working on closure procedures. SPD traffic and SDOT: no comments. SC: process for closing 5th and Harrison turnaround by MoPOP.</p> <p>SPD Traffic: We adapt. SC: Can go through SE process or not.</p> <p>SPD: let people know on egress.</p> <p>SDOT: Better to be closed, clearer messaging.</p>	S24SE287	9/17/2024
<p>University of Washington Academic Student Move-In.</p> <p>SPD: Did a good job due to political event occurring at the same time. Event moved inside, ready with contingency plan.</p> <p>SE: Double up on staffing with SPD and UW Police.</p> <p>SDOT: Additional move-in event for one day, which was different than three-day event and caused confusion for the neighborhood.</p>	S24SE313	9/17/2024
St. Benedict Wallingford Bratwurst Festival. CHAIR: attended	S24SE279	9/18/2024
<p>Fremont Oktoberfest</p> <p>WSLCB: Have not heard of any violations.</p>	S24SE046	9/19/2024

FAS: Event organizer turnover; organizer needs to update their contact information and monitor their email address.		
Walk to End Lupus Now Seattle	S24SE016	9/20/2024
Puget Sound Heart and Stroke Walk SC: Switched the date, and disrupted other events on campus, layered on the same weekend as a major festival. CHAIR: I'll ask event organizer if ongoing or one time. SC: yes, need to know if planning same date for 2025, need to make adjustments.	S24SE233	9/20/2024
Georgetown Morgue Haunted House CHAIR: Permitted with us for use of streets. SFD: Good set up and in order on the first day.	S24SE283	9/20/2024
Move-In Day 2024 (Accolade) CHAIR: This was for an apartment building. SDOT: Public confusion on two events same weekend.	S24SE341	9/20/2024
UW Campus Friday Night Football Rally	S24SE344	9/20/2024
Palestine Will Live Forever at Seward Park. SFD: Surprised how fast it grew; application was 1,000 and grew larger which took us off guard. CHAIR: We heard increased attendance due to programming. Do you know what the attendance was? SFD: Will check. SE: Was planned as a parks event and moved to SE due to size and growth. Free speech event.	S24SE354	9/20/2024
C-ID Night Market SE: Working with event to get application in earlier. CHAIR: We will run a report on late application received, will do outreach and encourage timely applications. FAS: Reoccurring, hope for next year will be better. Know large volume of events.	S24SE284	9/21/2024
R-Day in Georgetown. WSLCB: Extended service request to extend to street. Need request in advance as we were not aware.	S24SE320	9/21/2024
PNW Pink Ribbon Row	S24SE282	9/22/2024
First World Flight Centennial Celebration – Magnuson and NOAA. METRO: Curious of attendance. We added extra buses. SFD: Have same question also. CHAIR: I'll reach out to event.	S24SE061	9/25/2024
Google Global 5k	S24SE300	9/25/2024
Seattle Greek Festival	S24SE299	9/27/2024
Talipapa Market Cultural Festival	S24SE331	9/27/2024
U- District Chowdown & Street Party	S24SE288	9/28/2024
Wa Na Wari Walk the Block 2024. SE: Last moment location change request due to laser show. Next year they might split their event for artistic installations. Did not move location.	S24SE289	9/28/2024

Mercer Island Sausage Pull - Paddling and Rowing Event	S24SE301	9/28/2024
Sustainable Ballard Festival CHAIR: LCB communications need to improve in future.	S24SE308	9/28/2024
Mass of the Holy Spirit – First Hill SFD: Vehicles parked in the fire lane prior to the end. Parking enforcement issues. CHAIR: Aware- think is a staffing issue. SDOT: OED working on scheduling 'No Park' signs prior to when the event starts vs. at event start time.	S24OC323	10/3/2024
Seattle Walk to End Colon Cancer 2024 SE: for PARKS, we received a phone call regarding use of the Burke Gillman Trail and lack of sharing with the public.	S24OC017	10/5/2024
Africatown Plaza Grand Opening	S24AU295	10/5/2024
Tail of the Lake Regatta	S24OC090	10/6/2024
Double Tenth Flag Raising and Parade	S24OC324	10/6/2024
Rally of Remembrance	S24OC371	10/6/2024

ADJOURNED