

Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2025

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	Toner Eren	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Camilo Penuela	METRO
King County Metro Transit	Eric Stewart	METRO
Mayor's Office	Israel Rios	MAYOR
Parks and Recreation	Carl Bergquist	PARKS
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	SC
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Keith Wyatt	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Debbie Williams	SFD
Seattle Police Department	Lt. Joshua Ziemer	POLICE / SDP
Seattle Dept of Construction & Inspections / Structures	Dean Greenleaf	SDCI Structures
Seattle Dept. of Construction & Inspecti / Noise Abatement	Dan Powers	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Jack Bighorse	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	N/A	SKCPH
Seattle Public Utilities	Pat Kaufman	SPU
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Lt Robert Rieder	WSLCB
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Kalynn Gubbe	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:

- Citizen, Bonnie Lackey, Alexander Party Rentals
- Claire Pinger, Downtown Seattle Association
- Gary Metcalf, Obliteride, Cadence Sports
- Christine McCann, Fred Hutch
- Alex Bosi, Insomniac Productions

Public Comment

- No public comments

Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 6/12/2025 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.

Roundtable/Announcements

- WSLCB: New member, Kalynn Gubbe, oversight for HB1515 World Cup Bill (expanded outdoor alcohol service rules through December 2027), and other programs.
- FIRE: Lt. Keith Wyatt retiring June 30, last SE Committee Meeting.
ALL: Thank you for your service.
- CHAIR: Discussion of retirement plans.
- SE: Hannah Tyo, last SE Committee Meeting in this role with OED as she shifts to new role as Special Events Coordinator at SDOT. Three years in SE role.
- CHAIR: Unable to host July 10 full committee meeting, will shift to July 17 instead of holding a sub-committee meeting. ALL: Confirms this works in calendars.
- CHAIR: Late application: Seattle LatinX Pride Festival on July 12, festival street with vendors and a beer garden. Can we push this late application through? It is peak season. No SPD needed.
- WSLCB: What is the name of the organization?
- CHAIR: Somos Seattle - Rainer Valley Core - El Centro de la Raza is doing neighborhood outreach.
- Committee: Can make it work.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Minute Approval

- Vote to approve May 8, 2025, minutes.
- SDCI: Motion to Approve SDCI. SC: Seconds
- Meeting minutes approved; All in favor, none opposed

Other Committee Discussions

- CHAIR: Agenda change – will not have a Seafair Citywide proposal discussion today.

Event Discussion: Day Trip – S25JY215

- EVENT: Gas Works Park, July 26, 2025. Previously held at Seattle Center, Myrtle Edwards Park and Gas Works Park. Noon to 9:00 p.m., 21 + event. Expected attendance 10,000, and event is sold out. Single stage, DLS concession has been approved by WSLCB. Center Stage providing site operations and logistics. Electronic dance music artists. VIP area moved to middle of the park, to help with access. Expanding into the north meadow area with approval from Parks. One entrance on the west side. Have reached out to MedicOne, have plans for other health Ground control roaming park. Neighborhood notification area focused to the north, also expanding to Eastlake, especially floating homes. Have done door-to-door the last few years, have developed relationships w/some local businesses. Sending multiple rounds of notifications, 50-day mark, another 30-, 14-, 7-, and one day prior.
- EVENT: Densmore, Burke, Meridian closed on southern ends 2hrs prior to 1hr after (10am-10pm) to alleviate N Northlake Way traffic. Local access only from north side to access

businesses. Geofencing some areas out of rideshare during event, dedicating parking lot for pickup/dropoff. Working with micromobility companies to geofence areas, have staffing to reset scooters and bikes. Bike check available at event.

- EVENT: Increased size of the stage and removed truss structures. Working to shorten load in timeline.
- FIRE: If it rains, will there be decking across the stage area so there is not a mud area?
- EVENT: Plan with dura-deck, plywood sheets, able to deploy quick ground cover. We do not cover the entire grass. Stage area or food truck area built on ground cover.
- FIRE: VIP area exit location?
- EVENT: Exits the same, and new exit to the north. Displayed a map with exits.
- FIRE: Do you have a food vendor list?
- EVENT: We are working on the list. Aware of the 30- day deadline.
- FIRE: Bigger exit signs in place?
- EVENT: We use the large 2 X 3 signs on the fencing,
- FIRE: Exit signs need to be no less than 80 inches from the ground.
- EVENT: We will note it.
- FIRE: 21 and over?
- EVENT: Yes, one entrance with ID checks with a bag search and metal detector.
- FIRE: Gate exits; can we get a wheel on the unpivoted sign so they can swing open on the grass.
- EVENT: Yes, we will notify our site team to add wheels.
- WSLCB: Walk around service with no beer gardens?
- EVENT: Yes, event is strictly 21+ event, no fenced off area.
- WSLCB: Please send licenses that concessionaire has received for alcohol service.
- EVENT: We will send the licenses.
- CHAIR: Do you need help connecting with Medic One?
- EVENT: We haven't heard back, have reached out. We will let you know if need assistance.
- FIRE: Contact M. Rogers with Medic One.
- SPU: On the application there is 'TBD' for compost, garbage and recycling vendor.
- EVENT: We are using 151, who is an out of state vendor. We are discussing using a local company. We might pivot to select a new vendor in state.
- SPU: All vendors need to use compostable food containers and need compostable collection. I can assist with vendors and requirements.
- EVENT: Will file a noise variance, working on engineered and stamped documents for staging, and ADA compliant.
- SDCl: Need to be involved with any stages over 4 feet tall, can send list of structures for SDCl to consider permit requirements. Can start a preliminary application now.
- EVENT: Confirms contact for stage build.
- SDCl: I'll send an email, and FAS needs handicap access.
- EVENT: We have the stamped engineering process.
- PARKS: Need to angle stage closer to the towers to help mitigate sound to neighborhood. Road by Kite Hill widened to help events load in.
- EVENT: We can meet for a walk through.
- PARKS: Yes, later this month.
- CHAIR: Looking at neighborhoods for large events, micromobility and ride shares. Might add parking enforcement officers to keep vehicles from parking in neighborhoods illegally. Would help to know the busiest times.
- EVENT: We can help with a plan as we have experts in this area (rideshare management).
- CHAIR: Yes, let's collaborate.

Event Discussion: Obliteride - S25AU075

- EVENT: Run / Walk to benefit Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Event is Saturday, August 9, participants estimate is 3,500. Opening ceremony Friday night at Gas Works Parks. Three routes, 100-mile, 50-mile and 25-mile bike routes. University of Washington to Gas Works Park. Events start at 6:00 a.m., 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. 100-mile riders end around 5:00 p.m. at Gas Works Park. Working on traffic control plan to close North Lake. Provided the neighborhood community notification.
- SPD Traffic: Any changes from 2024 to this year?
- EVENT: No changes but 5K starts ½ hour earlier.
- SPD FIRE: Friday's opening event with vendors the same?
- EVENT: Yes.
- SPD FIRE: Did you get your tent permit?
- EVENT: Not yet, we are working with the vendor.
- FIRE: Two tent permits needed for each location. Fire extinguishers were missing at the stage at University of Washington in 2024.
- EVENT: Will provide.
- SDCl: Understand same stage of last year, no permit needed as under 4 feet. if no changes, then we don't need a temporary structure permit.
- SPU: Confirming solid waste management plan moving ahead.
- EVENT: Yes, same company as used in the past.
- PARKS: Gas Work Parks changes, expanding the path. I'll send you the pictures of the changes.
- CHAIR: If you close North Lake Place need to have staffing at closure for SPD Harbor Patrol to enter or exit.
- EVENT: We assign staff there.
- SDOT: We are in communication.
- METRO: We will work on the reroutes by the University.
- EVENT: Routing is the same as last year. Let us know if any construction projects. We do a lot of events, with lots of cities, and you have a dialed in process. We appreciate your team checking the boxes.

Gas Works Park August 2026 Major Event Date Patterns

- CHAIR: AEG planning an event late August. PARKS need to determine best date for a potential 10,000 event in August on second-to-last or last Saturday.
- PARKS: Need to consider the neighborhood to not schedule too many events without a month apart. Concern with the health of the park, watering the grass. Logistical challenges for the city.
- CHAIR: Other events, August 23 is a Mariner's game. We don't have control of stadium events. Neighborhood-focused events occurring, but no large events. Last weekend of August has Bumbershoot at Seattle Center, PAX event, home Husky football game, EDM show at Magnuson Hanger 30.
- SPD Traffic: Bridge work construction on I-5 freeway prior to the FIFA World Cup is a consideration.
- SC: Revive I-5 freeway work needs to be noted. Technically City owns Bumbershoot, from programmatic standpoint it would be good to consider off-setting large Gas Works events from large Seattle Center events
- TRAFFIC: Big festivals mean SPD officers needed, mixing stadium events and then a big concert is a staffing resource issue.

- CHAIR: City resources is best to not have a big concert when a Labor Day and Bumbershoot event.
- FIRE: We concur; our resources are stretched thin. Affects EMS if too many events throughout the city.
- PARKS: Hearing that second to last weekend in August is better than the last weekend.
- TRAFFIC: Need to consider all sports stadium events.
- CHAIR: Sports events don't book a year out, so a challenge when events schedule in advance.
- SC: What events are we juggling, is it only 10,000 people threshold events? Is there a guideline we can form?
- CHAIR: Would be great to get all groups, adding the Waterfront, to look at our calendars and coordinate. Do we shift Gas Works event off of last weekend in July to avoid Bite of Seattle and Torchlight overlap?
- PARKS: We have Seafair 4th of July and need to consider the health of the park.
- CHAIR: Capitol Hill Block Party weekend shifting in 2026 and doesn't overlap with any big Gas Works Parks event. Obliterate more impact on SPD traffic and Block Party is an SPD impact.
- TRAFFIC: METRO needs more intersections staffed and we cannot provide. FIFA World Cup is 2026, and events still continuing. Club World Cup appeared in 2025, so could be other surprises. Priorities for meetings will be World Cup events, and agencies will be impacted.
- CHAIR: Historical special events will still happen during World Cup and need to figure out resources. We will be stretched thin and still continue our work.
- FIRE: Resources are an issue. Need to come up with a plan in advance so smoother year.
- PARKS: Can we put a moratorium on new events?
- TRAFFIC: Seconded.
- PARKS: First Amendments will need to happen.
- CHAIR: Propose a moratorium on downtown corridor during match days.
- DON: Can we move more parade events to the waterfront?
- CHAIR: Impact on cruise ships when daytime events occurring simultaneously. It is complicated and impacts stakeholders.
- DON: Reach out to historical event holders to not change their footprint in 2026.
- CHAIR: New online application and permitting software will help with email coordination. Need to have long game planning for 2026, set expectations. Landing on August 23 date for event at Gas Works Park.
- PARK: We will give organizer the date.

Seafair Citywide Special Event Fees

- CHAIR: tabled

Event Dates for Review 05/08/2025 to 6/11/2025

Name of Event	Permit No.	Event Start Date
Ballard FC Season Ticket Holder Event FIRE: A good event	S25MY132	5/9/2025
Rock the Block	S25MY082	5/10/2025
Beat The Bridge TRAFFIC: No issues.	S25MY092	5/10/2025

SIFF 2025 Opening Night FIRE: Went well, obtained loaner Meridian Barriers and Lumen trained them how to remove in an emergency	S25MY030	5/15/2025
17th of May Seattle Parade	S25MY095	5/17/2025
University District Street Fair	S25MY103	5/17/2025
West Seattle 5K Run/Walk TRAFFIC: Went well	S25MY071	5/18/2025
Science For All, free speech march	S25MY236	5/18/2025
IWF World Leadership Conference & Gala (2025) - CHAIR: curb use, thank you for help on this.	S25MY061	5/22/2025
Chief Seattle Club Memorial Walk	S25MY116	5/23/2025
Northwest Folklife Staging & Production Curb Use	S25MY210	5/23/2025
Concerts in Occidental Mall (5.24)	S25MY015	5/24/2025
Eritrean Independence Day Celebration PARKS: Noise complaint it was too loud. SDCI: Post event report assisted with review for this year.	S25MY104	5/24/2025
Memorial Day Ceremony	S25MY137	5/26/2025
Wallingford Farmers Market	S25MY044	5/28/2025
HONK! Fest West (Georgetown)	S25MY068	5/30/2025
HONK! Fest West (Columbia City) FIRE: Did not follow FIRE plan, put canopies all the way across the roadway. Took 15 minutes to fix.	S25MY067	5/31/2025
Madrona Mayfair FIRE: Good event, well organized, well done	S25MY100	5/31/2025
Black Wall Street FIRE: Problems with the fire lane. Stage blocking the fire lane, food vendor issues, lack of staff, last year was more organized.	S25MY123	5/31/2025
Meet Me At Waterfront Park 5K TRAFFIC: Went well, thought 4,000 people attending and had half the people. Good planning to mitigate issues. Suggest changing the turn around lane, go down Utah which is wider. FIRE: Pier 62 needed more exiting, adjusted on site. CHAIR: Friends of the Waterfront appreciate all the help, PORT was happy, happy with SPD at intersection of Alaska and Elliott keeping vehicles moving. FIRE: Returning North on Alaskan Way, the traffic officers hired by Port of Seattle were not organized. Took 20 minutes to clear by Pier 66. Private traffic control officers not organized, and traffic wasn't due to the event.	S25MY124	5/31/2025
BRS X Hellbent Brewing	S25MY160	5/31/2025
Parke Diem	S25MY174	5/31/2025
Brooks and Fleet Feet The Big Run	S25JU157	6/4/2025

Pride in the Park PARKS: Little trash left behind	S25JU004	6/7/2025
Roosevelt High School Neighborhood Parade	S25JU122	6/7/2025
Loop the Lupe Obstacle Course and 5k Run	S25JU127	6/7/2025
White Rabbit Group & The Euphoria Project Present EDM Show (6.7) FIRE: It was good	S25JU128	6/7/2025
South Lake Union Saturday Market FIRE: Went well, hiccup at beginning set up and working on solutions.	S25JU139	6/7/2025
Furry 5K FIRE: Traffic was flowing well. Folks had a good time with the dogs.	S25JU126	6/8/2025

ADJOURNED