

**Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes**

July 17, 2025

Via WebEx Meeting

**Member and Partner Representatives in Attendance:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Noted in Minutes As</b>
Department of Neighborhoods	Sonny Nguyen	DON
Finance and Administrative Services Licensing	Toner Eren	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Penuela Camilo	METRO
Mayor's Office	N/A	MAYOR
Parks and Recreation	Carl Bergquist	PARKS
Seattle Center	N/A	SC
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Jamie Scott	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Deborah Williams	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Police Department	Lt. Joshua Ziemer	POLICE / SPD
Seattle Police Department	Lt. Jason Domholt	POLICE / SPD
Seattle Police Department/Traffic	A/Captain Bryan Clenna	SPD Traffic
Seattle Dept of Construc & Inspect/Structures	Dean Greenleaf	SDCI Struct
Seattle Dept. of Construc & Inspect / Noise Abatement	Anthony Jagow (Tony)	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Hannah Tyo	SDOT
Seattle Department of Transportation	Mya Schlepp	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	Tony Bui	SKCPH
Seattle Public Utilities	Pat Kaufman	SPU
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Lt Robert Rieder	WSLCB
Special Events Office	Kiah Patzkowsky	CHAIR
Special Events Permit Specialist	Alex Mielcarek	SE

**Additional Attendees:**

- Bonnie Lackey, Alexander Party Rentals
- Floretta Woart, Claire Pinger, Downtown Seattle Association
- Jessa Timmer, Alliance for Pioneer Square,
- Sunil, Pic, Pradeep Mettu, Gani, Raja Chanda, Shankar Chamakuri, Dadh, India Day Parade
- Vamshi Reddy, India Day Parade event organizer

**Public Comment**

- No comments

*Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 7/17/2025 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.*

### **Roundtable/Announcements**

- CHAIR: Proposal to shift future meetings to Microsoft Teams. Committee members agree this is good idea.
- CHAIR: Discussion of Oodalalee's request to move to Occidental Mall outside of the SE timeline. Alliance for Pioneer Square confirmed with CHAIR outside of this meeting that businesses have not been properly informed per neighborhood notification requirements.
- Jessa Timmer: Issue with loss of business access due to event footprint (consecutive events have significant impact on weekend business access)
- CHAIR: Acknowledges how this appeared as a clever solution for organizers. Also acknowledges that this still has significant neighborhood impact.
- SFD: Curious about event's reasoning
- DSA: Note that there are scheduling conflicts with the original event location
- CHAIR: Note that last-minute event permitting requests do happen, most recent of which featured an organizer who had followed requirements for a permit but missed submitting special event application.
- SDOT: Note that SDOT requests to reject this permit application due to insufficient time available to plan.
- CHAIR: Request for notice from committee by Friday 7/18/2025

### **Review Previous Meeting Minutes**

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

### **Meeting Minute Approval**

- Vote to approve June 12, 2025, minutes.
- Meeting minutes approved; All in favor, none opposed

### **India Day Parade - S25AU287**

- EVENT: Introduced all in attendance. Similar group of organizers and audience in May 2024 at the Convention Center with over 10,000 event attendees. Proposed timeline with assembly done at 10am, 12pm parade starts, 3:30pm/4pm end time of parade. Grandstand build starts at 6am on 4th (close 4th & Pine from 6am-6pm). Parade would feature 50 groups. Parade spanning 5-6 blocks through Downtown Seattle, request from City Hall to Westlake Park on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- CHAIR: Note SPD conversation regarding the parade route. Ask for confirmation from SPD Traffic.
- EVENT: Grandstand would be on Pine Street
- SPD: Where would floats disassemble?
- EVENT: Floats will exit down 3rd to return to assembly area
- SPD: KC Metro uses 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> would be better for disassemble.
- KCM: Closing 3rd would be significant impact. Preference to utilize 2nd.
- EVENT: Agree to use 2nd. Plan to use parking lot on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- SPD: Assembly area standard is to block traffic at Washington & 4th.

- EVENT: Spring to James would be staging area for this event.
- CHAIR: Is there parking along those blocks to facilitate leaving floats overnight?
- EVENT: Proposal to use private parking lot as place to put floats overnight.
- SDOT: Preference is to use private lot overnight.
- EVENT: Proposal to use street parking north of Yesler for staging.
- SPD: Agree, easier for security at private lot. Question re: disassembly and the landscape (slope of hills could pose an issue). Request to go back to parking lot rather than assembly area
- EVENT: Agree with SPD. Assembly at 10am. 12:30 parade start. Request street closure at either 4-6am start in morning and 5-6pm end in evening.
- SPD: 4th and Pine from 6am until end of event (6pm). Parade route close at 10am
- EVENT: Request for 8am for route closure start
- SPD: Would SDOT be ok? Metro impacts?
- CHAIR: Concerned with the timeline of closure and impact on ROW. What does Pride do?
- EVENT: Trying to emulate St. Patrick's Parade
- SPD: Timeline is shorter for St Patrick's Parade. Request grandstand viewing platform shift to Pine St. parallel to Westlake to allow quicker restoration of use of 4<sup>th</sup> for vehicle traffic.
- EVENT: Opposition due to the use of Westlake for other event activities.
- CHAIR: Note that there is an activation at the Convention Center, T-Mobile Park, and Seattle Center. Traffic movement is imperative due to other things occurring in the city. Need to prioritize ROW impact. Request to move Grandstand to side street.
- EVENT: What if we swap the VIP seating and the stage?
- SPD: Is the stage mobile or built in place? The grandstands on the side of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue can be broken down and towed off easily. If this is the case for the stage, then it would be easy to remove, and timeline of ROW impact would be reduced.
- EVENT: What if the parade starts earlier?
- SPD: Timeline is the issue. 12 hrs. is a huge time commitment. Resource issue
- KCM: August 16th and revive I-5 closure coinciding. Diversion of traffic into downtown will also increase ROW impact.
- CHAIR: Another reason to tighten up the timeline to be as short as possible.
- EVENT: 5:00 p.m.?
- CHAIR: Still an issue because it is the evening.
- SPD: The earlier the better.
- EVENT: What timeline would be best?
- CHAIR: Agree with SPD and Metro we need to delve further into this issue.
- SPD: Request for subcommittee meeting to further discuss route options and timeline.
- CHAIR: Confirm that committee will have conversation about timeline.
- EVENT: Note that they have their own meeting tomorrow and would appreciate timeline and feasibility update ASAP.
- SPD: Request to be off the street by 1PM.
- EVENT: Not possible for 1PM, could maybe do 4PM?
- SPD: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave is also impacted due to traffic reroutes and that there are a lot of dynamics going on this date and that the stretch of 6am to 4pm of street closure of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave is a huge impact to this main northbound traffic route.
- EVENT: Question about use of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave?
- KCM: Not an option.

- SPD: Concur.
- EVENT: What about 8am-4pm?
- SPD: Earlier is better. The later you go the higher the traffic impact.
- EVENT: We need to discuss the timeline more.
- CHAIR: Request for another conversation about the timeline as this is a larger issue.
- EVENT: Request for decision ASAP since they will have a meeting where they invite people tomorrow.
- CHAIR: Not likely we will have a decision tomorrow.
- SPD: You may need to shorten your parade route.
- EVENT: We do not need route from Washington to Pine. Main focus is Westlake and Pine.
- CHAIR: Need to move on to other topics. Will address further later this week.
- EVENT: Thank you for time and available for further conversations.

### Seafair 2025 fees

- CHAIR: Fees history and 2025 options shared via email. Reminder that Seafair is designated as Citywide event in SMC, review of fees from 2019 to 2024. Note that Seafair Torchlight has shifted away from 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and Seattle Center to the Waterfront this year, resulting in fewer SPD resources needed. Savings would account for approximately \$33,000 in SPD labor when using SE fee for SPD labor. Unsure of cost of use of barriers. Street segment and intersection use has also reduced due to this shift. Recommend considering this when discussing 2025 fees.
  - PARKS: Aren't we taking on a larger chunk of SPD's cost for this?
  - SPD: It goes to general fund, so it's a moot point.
  - CHAIR: The special events fees are not meant to recoup entirely what the city cost is for events. Fees are not meant to be a burden such that these events cannot happen anymore.
  - CHAIR on behalf of SC: In 2024, SC waived \$30,000 in fees for the event.
- Acknowledgement of Seafair's financial challenges in 2023 and SE Committee responding to accommodate. Request that Seafair Family Fourth and Seafair Weekend be voted on fees at 7 or 10%. Advocate for fees to be reduced for Seafair Torchlight due to resources saved from this event location shift, or a fee which is on par with 2024. Acknowledgment of Committee's hard work on this.
- SFD: Seafair 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Seafair Weekend has a high impact on SFD staffing. Would like an increase based on impacts.
  - CHAIR on behalf of EVENT: Seafair budgeted a 3% increase for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Seafair Weekend and a decrease in costs for Torchlight. Seafair is incurring unexpected costs for Torchlight to protect Waterfront resources. Appreciative of City support of this. Any increase above 3% may put Seafair over budget.
  - CHAIR: Ask if Committee would like a moment to consider the events of Seafair separately in negotiating Citywide costs.
  - SDCl: Fees for structures that are specific to Seafair Weekend.
  - CHAIR: For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July – thoughts on fee increase proposal? Note that this is a community event and takes a lot of City resources.
  - SPD: More likely to give them a break on 4<sup>th</sup> of July than Seafair Weekend.
  - SDOT: Agree. This was a heavy lift for SDOT, should consider that Seafair takes on no parking in some other parks in the City that weekend.

- CHAIR: Clarify that Seafair's traffic control plan encompasses no parking signage in a variety of areas across the City that are not directly impacted by event activities, which needs to be rectified.
- PARKS: Confirm that this is an off-season conversation.
- CHAIR: 3% increase for Seafair 4<sup>th</sup> of July?
- DON: Personal appreciation for the event and acknowledgment of the significant impact to the City to host this event. Note that it is sponsored by Amazon. Inclined to go for 7%.
- PARKS: Note that Seafair does a lot of damage to the Park consistently.
- SPD: Note that there is no competition for this event.
- CHAIR: Note that this event is a large lift for organizers as well.
- SPU: Seafair is not the greatest at recycling despite repeated SPU partnership and guidance shared with the organizer.
- CHAIR: 5% increase for Seafair 4<sup>th</sup> of July?
- SDOT: Agree
- DON: Agree
- SFD: Agree
- CHAIR: Hearing no other comments, it seems like 5% is amenable for Seafair 4th of July. Moving on to Torchlight Parade. Thoughts on increasing, maintaining, or decreasing for Torchlight?
- CHAIR on behalf of SC: Maintain or decrease.
- DON: Maintain or decrease. Torchlight Parade showcases the best of Seattle, multicultural drill teams, different community groups showcasing what it means to be a Seattleite in a special time. Therefore, interest in a decrease.
- SDOT: Agree with that perspective. While it's a lot of work to do this shift, it has a future benefit of being a template for parades on the waterfront. A lower increase for this event is amenable.
- CHAIR: Concur on event as a template for how to utilize the Waterfront. Seafair has well-seasoned parade marshals considering how to utilize the Waterfront and they are a good organization to test this space due to their experience. SEO perspective is maintain or decrease fees by a small % due to reduced City resource impact.
- DON: Would a reduction in Torchlight render an increase in 4th meaningless?
- CHAIR: Reality of fee breakdown is that its still reflected in the events parsed out.
- PARKS: Consider these as events by different organizers when looking at these fees.
- SPD: 5% increase across the board.
- DON: 3% decrease for Torchlight specifically?
- SPD: Was this route shift proposed by the City, or Friends of the Waterfront, or Seafair? Consider the Port of Seattle's concerns in use of the space as well.
- CHAIR: City supported shift to the Waterfront due to scheduling needs at Seattle Center, shifting impact from core of Downtown down to Waterfront, which takes fewer resources and has fewer cross-streets to manage.
- SPD: Consider traffic impacts of this event in new location.
- CHAIR: Not a proponent of raising fees on Torchlight
- CHAIR: 5% increase for Seafair Weekend and 4<sup>th</sup> seems amenable. Is there a general vibe on the approach to fees for Torchlight.
- DON: 5% on Weekend, 4th. Maintain on Torchlight.
- SFD: Concur
- SDOT: Concur
- SDCl: Concur

- CHAIR: Vote to approve a 5% increase in fees from 2024 to 2025 for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Seafair Weekend fees. Vote to maintain fees from 2024 to 2025 for Torchlight Parade.
- SE: Role call vote taken. Nine approved, two abstain, zero opposed. Motion carries.

#### **Eproval update**

- CHAIR: Skip due to time constraint

#### **Lessons learned from Club World Cup**

- CHAIR: Skip due to time constraint

- **Review Recent Events** Events for Review 6/12/2025 to 7/16/2025

Event	Permit Number	Event Date
Georgetown Carnival	S25JU147	6/14/2025
Morgan Junction Community Festival	S25JU145	6/14/2025
No Kings	S25JU269	6/14/2025
Seattle Dragon Boat Festival	S25JU005	6/14/2025
Taco Time Volunteer Park Criterium	S25JU146	6/14/2025
Beer Garden for Club Cup at Railspur	S25JU219	6/15/2025
Club Cup Watch Party (Westlake)	S25JU110	6/15/2025
Club World Cup Events (Occidental Square) - SFD Note that there may have been an event next to Amtrak that was not permitted. Performance on that plaza, unsure if there was a stage but there was a band and backup singers. Possible that OAC activated that space.	S25JU129	6/15/2025
Club World Cup in Occidental Mall	S25JU152	6/15/2025
FIFA Club World Cup Curb Use	S25JU220	6/15/2025
Juneteenth CommUnity Celebration – SDOT note that TCP was not followed resulting in confusion regarding bike lane detour	S25JU179	6/19/2025
Juneteenth Freedom Fest Rally	S25JU250	6/19/2025
Juneteenth NAAM Skate Party	S25JU203	6/19/2025
Fremont Fair	S25JU117	6/21/2025
Fremont Solstice Parade	S25JU050	6/21/2025
Mount Baker Summer Festival	S25JU130	6/21/2025
Pride Pull-a-Palooza Deadlift Party	S25JU081	6/21/2025
Seattle Marathon Summer Run – Parks report that they closed the Seward Park lot, and they were not approved for that.	S25JU150	6/21/2025
March for Life	S25JU247	6/22/2025
Massive Pride 2025	S25JU115	6/25/2025
Cuff Pride Festival	S25JU118	6/27/2025
Queer / Pride Festival	S25JU102	6/27/2025

Trans Pride Seattle	S25JU216	6/27/2025
Unicorn Pride Block Party	S25JU166	6/27/2025
Union Pride	S25JU135	6/27/2025
Wildrose Pride 2025	S25JU085	6/27/2025
Greenwood Car Show	S25JU063	6/28/2025
Julia's Gay Pride	S25JU144	6/28/2025
PrideFest Capitol Hill – Parks note that there was illegal vending around Bobby Morris not in association with the event	S25JU168	6/28/2025
Seattle Seafair Pirates Alki Beach Landing	S25JU024	6/28/2025
The Wash Pride	S25JU209	6/28/2025
Seattle Pride Parade	S25JU017	6/29/2025
Somali Independence Heritage Festival	S25JU141	6/29/2025
Seafair 4th of July – Parks note that the Park suffered some damage. SPU note that recycling plan not followed. SFD note that the crowd was calm and that event flow (signage and pathways) was good. SFD note that the exclusion zone looks unclear for boat traffic, suggestion to use buoys to denote exclusion zone explicitly with signage since perimeter monitoring is a staffing issue. Parks note that fiber optic cables were woven through historical landmarks in an unauthorized fashion.	S25JY193	7/4/2025
Seattle Tennis Club 4th of July Fireworks	S25JY142	7/4/2025
West Seattle 4th of July Kids Parade	S25JY164	7/4/2025
Pioneer Square Fest 2025 – SDOT reduced their footprint and organizers were flexible; this was appreciated by SDOT. Organizer thankful. FAS did not get a vendor list in an appropriate timeline or format despite advance communication with the organizer. SKCPH had communication issue with food vendors present at event, did not know of any. SFD did not see food vendors either. SDOT did not see food truck parking requested on their application.	S25JY089	7/5/2025
Ballard SeafoodFest 2025	S25JY041	7/11/2025
Base Camp Studios Summer Bash – Parks note for internal debrief with Parks, SDOT, and OED.	S25JY239	7/11/2025
Downtown Summer Sounds Kickoff – SDOT Bike Lane concern pre-event even though there is not a bike lane running through this space.	S25JY188	7/11/2025
West Seattle Summer Fest – WSLCB they did a good job of notifying enforcement officer except for one business who was educated as a result. No violations noted.	S25JY113	7/11/2025
Annual Eritrean Orthodox Church Celebration	S25JY285	7/12/2025

Byrd Barr Place Annual Block Party	S25JY306	7/12/2025
CID Celebration – SPD note event was less well attended than previous years. SDOT note that this with Uwajimaya Natsu Matsuri overlapping in footprint was a challenge, but thankful that CID Celebration was amenable to footprint adaptation to accommodate.	S25JY225	7/12/2025
Madison Park Children's Parade	S25JY176	7/12/2025
Nordstrom Block Party	S25JY205	7/12/2025
Seattle Latinx Pride Festival	S25JY290	7/12/2025
Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic	S25JY078	7/12/2025
Uwajimaya Natsu Matsuri – SFD note that this organizer was very well prepared with permits for SFD food inspection.	S25JY184	7/12/2025
Wallingford Parade	S25JY175	7/12/2025
White Rabbit Group & The Euphoria Project Present EDM Show - Parks received a noise complaint that might be attributed to this event but unsure	S25JY133	7/12/2025
North Helpline Block Party	S25JY214	7/13/2025
OCRA Rivkin SummeRun	S25JY182	7/13/2025
Cafe Campagne Bastille Day Celebration	S25JY185	7/14/2025

- Anything Else
  - SDCl: Curious about fencing at Club World Cup match.

ADJOURNED