

Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2025

Via WebEx Meeting

Member and Partner Representatives in Attendance:

Agency	Representatives	Noted in Minutes As
Department of Neighborhoods	N/A	DON
Finance and Administrative Services Licensing	Toner Eren	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Eric Stewart	METRO
Mayor's Office	Israel Rios	MAYOR
Parks and Recreation	N/A	PARKS
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	SC
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Jamie Scott	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Deborah Williams	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Police Department	N/A	POLICE / SDP
Seattle Police Department/Traffic	A/Capt. Bryan Clenna	SPD Traffic
Seattle Dept of Construc & Inspect/Structures	Dean Greenleaf	SDCI Structures
Seattle Dept. of Construc & Inspect / Noise Abatement	James Dasher	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Jack Bighorse	SDOT
Seattle Department of Transportation	Hannah Tyo	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	Tony Bui	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	Alex Mielcarek	SE
Special Events Permit Admin II	Leslie Kodish	SE
Special Events Permit Specialist	Leslie Daniels	SE

Additional Attendees:

- Isaac Mann, Water Lantern Festival
- Gloria Connors, Jon Stone, Connors & Co
- Eldon Tam, Yoon Kang O'Higgins, Friends of Waterfront Park
- Bonnie Lackey, Alexander Party Rentals

- Dr. Breck Lebegue, WA Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Claire Pinger, Floretta Woart, Downtown Seattle Association
- Kimberly Larson, Airshow Climate Action Alliance

Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 08/14/2025 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.

Public Comment

- Kimberly Larson, requesting Blue Angels end the fighter jet show. Collected a petition with over 5,000 signatures calling for the end of the Blue Angels show. Petition has comments regarding trauma, PTSD, and panic attacks. Concern with noise violations, decibel level, and impact on the public. Requesting the Special Events Office ends the fighter jet show during Seafair. Petition to be shared directly with Special Events Office.
- Dr. Breck Lebegue, WA Physicians for Social Responsibility. Group requested the Blue Angels were not permitted and a permit was issued nonetheless. We are not against entertainment; we are against the Blue Angels. Concern with the health effect, fossil fuel, hearing loss, particle damage to lungs, hearts, brain, and delayed climate change.

Roundtable/Announcements

- CHAIR: We acknowledge and have documented the concerns that have been frequently shared regarding Blue Angels at Seafair. Recommend focusing energy with the Seafair organization regarding air show concerns.
- CHAIR: Leslie Kodish is retiring September 4. We have posted the admin job, and will share the link with the committee. Leslie Daniels is helping on the SE permitting side until October 8. A permanent special event specialist is starting shortly. We will have a separate Seafair Torchlight meeting to discuss the parade. August 21, special events meeting, prioritize eProval software walkthrough or the July Seafair Torchlight event recap?
- SDOT: Will be on vacation next week and wish to participate in Torchlight meeting.
- CHAIR: August 21 will be an eProval review meeting.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Minute Approval

- Any comments on the July 17 minutes. Vote to approve July 17, 2025 minutes.
- SDOT: Motion to approve minutes.
- SC: Seconded
- Meeting minutes approved; All in favor, none opposed.

Water Lantern Festival - S25OC009

- CHAIR: Location is Green Lake Park in October.
- EVENT: Event is two days October 11 and 12. Start 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and launch 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., music, food trucks. Participants decorate their lanterns and put them in the water. 6:00 p.m. is lantern stories.

- [illegible]

- 3 of 7

- CHAIR: Good idea to designate a spot and provide geofencing for car services. Intersections around there will need SPD traffic control areas.
- METRO: Will provide a list of Metro routes. E line and Route 45 are the main routes.
- CHAIR: I'll connect with SPD on staffing.
- EVENT: I'm working with the Theater to align schedules. Theater suggested moving location to the east side of the park. More parking lots on the east side and closer to Light Rail. What do you think?
- CHAIR: Change for this year or 2026?
- EVENT: What ever makes sense.
- CHAIR: We will need to consult with PARKS.
- SDOT: Challenges remain, east side has larger launch area, wider streets, still need to address neighborhood access. Quick review, East side looks like a better location.
- CHAIR: Will connect with PARKS regarding possible shift to east side location.
- FAS: Request event reviews and responds to email sent about business licensing.
- EVENT: Yes, will take care of it.

Waterfront Grand Opening - S25SE325

- EVENT: September 6 event celebration of the Waterfront Park completion. Different offices are planning different parts of the celebration. No street closures. 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. activation. Six areas for performances along Waterfront. WSLCB permit was issued very quickly. Curb use requested. Peer security handling unlicensed vendors. Ribbon cutting is a separate event that is receiving support from Connors & Co.
- CHAIR: For context, Special Events will not be permitting all Waterfront events, but plan to use special events process to permit very large events that touch multiple agencies such as Grand Opening.
- EVENT: Load in Friday, September 5 from 8am-8pm, Load out Saturday 9/6 after event from 9pm-1am. Not setting a lot of equipment, but footprint is over one mile long along Waterfront.
- WSLCB: Where are the locations for alcohol sales?
- EVENT: Pier 62, intended to be all ages with alcohol service.
- SDCl Structures: Infrastructure at Pier 58 and 62?
- EVENT: SL100 stage at Pier 62, small canopies and minimal infrastructure elsewhere.
- CHAIR: Are the Salish steps a location for the ribbon cutting?
- EVENT: Considering Pier 62 or Salish Steps without a stage. Overlook Walk will have sponsor tents. Event operations office at Pier 56. Pier 62 has stage, all-ages beer garden area, Pier 58 has DJ's, Stadium Plaza has food trucks, community and sponsor booths. Small performance spaces along Waterfront. Procession at 1pm from Pier 62 to Railroad Plaza, 6pm procession from Railroad Plaza to Pier 62. Expect 60 minutes at start/finish of each procession for mobilization and demobilization. Liaising with SPD for support at crosswalks for processions. Would like Meridian barriers along Promenade.
- CHAIR: Expectation for processions when they cross the street follows pedestrian crosswalks and signals.
- EVENT: Yes, we have discussed with SPD. One exception is horse-drawn antique carriage, which cannot use curb cuts, will need SPD to hold traffic.
- WSLCB: Can you confirm you received the special occasion license as issued August 5.
- EVENT: Yes
- WSLCB: Second page, third line, no one under 21 years can enter this area.
- EVENT: We will connect offline.
- FAS: Are the DJs being paid to perform.

- EVENT: Yes.
- FAS: Please include them on the vendor list and all event suppliers.
- SPU: Solid waste plan for recycling and composting. Application states Parks and Seattle Center.
- EVENT: Seattle Center will handle Waterfront Park. Friends of the Waterfront recommend adding more large dumpsters.
- SPU: I need more specifics. Food trucks need compostable collection, need additional green bins. We can meet offline.
- EVENT: I will update the site plan.
- FRIENDS: We met with Seattle Center on dumpster placement.
- SC: I will flag for what details they are looking for.
- CHAIR: I will connect with SPD also.
- EVENT: We would like to discuss the archer barriers.
- CHAIR: Will liaise with SPD on availability.

Eproval update

- CHAIR: We will discuss eProval our August 21 meeting. It is single-sign on for City of Seattle employees. Outside agencies will have a log in. Goal is implementation by the end of 2025. Testing will happen soon to get your input. We will ask event organizers also to test the system.

Review Recent Events

Events for Review 7/17/2025 to 8/13/2025

AEG Event for August 23 at Gas Works Park was cancelled.

Name of Event	Permit No	Event Start Date
JamFest 2025	S25JY190	7/17/2025
Creative Convergence	S25JY191	7/17/2025
Alki Art Fair	S25JY045	7/18/2025
Seafair Indian Days Powwow (36th Annual)	S25JY299	7/18/2025
Chamber Music in the Park	S25JY018	7/19/2025
Capitol Hill Block Party WSLCB: Good idea to be 21 + only event. Security did a good job. No issues were reported. CHAIR: event could go back to a three-day event in the future. Having a 21+ only event removes some challenges. SE: Security check lapses near Chop House Row.	S25JY086	7/19/2025
Float Dodger 5K	S25JY087	7/19/2025
Bon Odori Festival	S25JY155	7/19/2025
West Seattle Grand Parade	S25JY156	7/19/2025
Boba Fest	S25JY235	7/19/2025
FamilyWorks' 30th Birthday Block Party	S25JY248	7/19/2025
Seattle Waterfront 10k	S25JY289	7/19/2025
Seafair Triathlon SPD Traffic: It went well. SDOT: was a lift this year.	S25JY064	7/20/2025
Chinatown Seafair Parade SPD Traffic: Lower attendance this year.	S25JY223	7/20/2025

GitHub 5K	S25JY207	7/22/2025
<p>Bite of Seattle Curb Use</p> <p>SC: A KC Metro driver got lost and attempted to drive through campus. Impacted traffic for one hour during load in. Don't send large vehicles on side streets during large events.</p> <p>SPD Traffic: Concerned that sometimes Metro drivers are not being informed of special events.</p> <p>SDOT: Curb use was a challenge. Encourage production to connect with their partners and go through the parking reservation program in advance. Workshop got the information late.</p>	S25JY274	7/25/2025
<p>Seafair Torchlight Parade</p> <p>CHAIR: Will discuss at separate event-specific recap meeting.</p>	S25JY010	7/26/2025
Fat Salmon Open Water Swim	S25JY020	7/26/2025
Da Grind - Outrigger Canoe Race	S25JY125	7/26/2025
<p>Day Trip Festival</p> <p>CHAIR: DON, PARKS, and SE met with Wallingford Community and impact of large events at Gasworks Park. Request organizers to log decibel levels.</p>	S25JY215	7/26/2025
<p>Seafair Torchlight Run</p> <p>CHAIR: Will discuss at separate event-specific recap meeting.</p> <p>SPD Traffic: Should not run through the assembly area in the future. Some internal issues with the barricade coordinators.</p>	S25JY296	7/26/2025
St. James Cathedral Parish Picnic	S25JY178	7/27/2025
Pista sa Nayon	S25JY217	7/27/2025
Seasonal Table (The)	S25JY271	7/30/2025
Fremont Night Market	S25JY294	7/31/2025
Magnolia Summerfest	S25AU072	8/1/2025
Seafair Weekend Festival	S25AU192	8/1/2025
Magnolia Summerfest Seafair Parade	S25AU073	8/2/2025
<p>Concerts in Occidental Mall (8.2)</p> <p>SDCI Noise: Received a complaint about noise, it was covered by the variance. EDM music.</p>	S25AU088	8/2/2025
<p>Umoja Fest Africatown Heritage Festival Rally</p> <p>SFD (FIRE): Lots of field permits issued for vendors, many vendors lacking fire extinguisher. Positive event otherwise.</p> <p>FAS: Vendor list improvement this year, still needs some improvement.</p>	S25AU148	8/2/2025
Umoja Fest Africatown Heritage Parade March	S25AU149	8/2/2025
Lake City Summer Festival	S25AU221	8/2/2025
Lake City Summer Parade	S25AU222	8/2/2025
Summit 2 Sound	S25AU229	8/2/2025
Google WA Commute Expo	S25AU249	8/6/2025

<p>Obliteride</p> <p>SPD Traffic: Pacific Street prior to Brooklyn are bicycle crashes due to a huge crack in roadway. Can SDOT fill this in? We are having frequent accidents at this location.</p> <p>SDOT: Yes, I will bring it up.</p> <p>SDCI Structures: Events can also put down caution yellow tape.</p> <p>SPD Traffic: Events do this, but caution tape is hard to see with riders close together in large pelotons.</p>	S25AU075	8/8/2025
South Lake Union Block Party	S25AU165	8/8/2025
Belltown Block Party	S25AU019	8/9/2025
<p>What's Good 2025</p> <p>SFD: Good to work with on fire lanes, moved couple food vendor, things went well.</p> <p>FAS: Event needs to improve their vendor list.</p>	S25AU070	8/9/2025
Capitol Hill Market	S25JU099	8/9/2025
Rise For Justice Protest	S25AU134	8/9/2025
<p>Belltown Mural Festival</p> <p>FAS: Lots of missing information from this event.</p>	S25AU194	8/9/2025
Loyal Heights Community Center Tasty Tunes	S25AU212	8/9/2025
Seattle Slam Showdown	S25AU231	8/9/2025
Equinox Studios Very Out In The Open House	S25AU237	8/9/2025
Alphabet Vodka Dayfade Block Party	S25AU257	8/9/2025
Maple Leaf Park Movies by the Tower	S25AU273	8/9/2025
<p>Lake Union 10K Run/Walk</p> <p>SDOT: Lots of roadwork occurring by Furhman and University Bridge, so had to move their route. Organizer updated TCP quickly.</p> <p>SPD Traffic: Large group of people using Burke Gillman Trail during this event. Recommend considering how to improve neighborhood notifications along trail itself in lead-up to event.</p>	S25AU091	8/10/2025
Othello International Festival	S25AU196	8/10/2025

ADJOURNED