



**Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes**

July 11, 2024

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	Jonathan Rose	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 Police Department	Sgt. Shane Burditt	POLICE / SPD
Seattle Police Department/Traffic	N/A	SPD Traffic
Seattle Dept of Construction & Inspections	Dean Greenleaf	SDCI Structures
Seattle Dept. of Constr & Insp.- Noise Abat	Anthony Jagow (Tony)	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Jack Bighorse	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	N/A	SKCPH
Seattle Public Utilities	N/A	SPU
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Lt. Robert Rieder	WSLCB
Special Events Office:		
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:**

None

*Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 7/11/2024 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.*

## **Roundtable/Announcements**

- SC: Bite of Seattle new producer. Thanks for patience and expressing my appreciation.
- CHAIR: Last Moment application Ballard FC, location moving to Interbay. Bite of Seattle in their preferred location, so event shifted. Planning July 19 and 21 and hope to have alcohol sales at matches. Did they have license already at Memorial Stadium?
- WSLCB: Will investigate to see what license applied for and what was approved.
- SFD: Need plans ASAP.
- PARKS: Beer garden was in their application
- SFD: We will review.
- MAYOR: is this for playoffs?
- PARKS: Yes, these would be playoffs. Team will know tomorrow.
- CHAIR: we will process the application and obtain a detailed map.  
New August events downtown – Music Events in Westlake Park (ticketed) and Pike Street (free event) - Any issues? SPU sewer fix occurring on Pike St. No public comments.

## **Review Previous Meeting Minutes**

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

## **Meeting Minute Approval**

- Vote to approve June 13, 2024, minutes. Any comments?
- SDOT: Motion to approve. SC: Second the motion.
- CHAIR: All in favor? Any opposed.?
- Meeting minutes approved; All in favor, none opposed [change as applicable]

## **Citywide Event Fee Approval**

### **Fremont Solstice Parade 2024**

- CHAIR: Citywide events are specified in the municipal code. Fremont Solstice Parade requests a \$330 Special Events Permit fee in 2024, which matches the permit fee minimum. Fremont Arts Council is facing financial challenges due to COVID impacts and lack of volunteers.
- FAS: What did they pay last year?
- CHAIR: Last year paid \$300
- FAS: We voted prior on fee reduction for Fremont Solstice.
- CHAIR: Fremont Arts Council request in 2024 continues to follow the pattern of post-COVID fees they've paid. Per discussion with Fremont Arts Council, the intent is to build up fees in 2025 and beyond to get Citywide fees closer to the fee pattern pre-2020, when Citywide fees were closer to what actual fees would be for street use. Displayed spreadsheet of actual costs and citywide negotiated fee.
- SC: What is the expectation for future years?
- CHAIR: Next year Fremont Arts Council is expected to take meaningful steps to pay for increased fees to incrementally get closer to the fee pattern pre-2020
- SC: Recommend formalize in a memo.

- CHAIR: I will generate a memo the committee can vote on.
- PARKS: Do we verify that they need our reduction. Honor system. This is a huge reduction. Will events continue to ask for this?
- SDOT: Today's discussion is do we charge the bare minimum \$330 for this year's event. We need to charge events something, but also want to help event.
- CHAIR: Moving forward the intent is to get back to pre-pandemic rate patterns. City Ordinance states it is a citywide negotiated fee. I will work with the Fremont Arts Council, so they have in their budget to contribute more to the city's general fund.
- FAS: Event organizers need to explore options also to make it work. City cannot subsidize events. Need an agreement in writing and a deadline.
- CHAIR: This event is a citywide special event per code so different arrangement due to cultural contribution. It is a balance.
- METRO: What happened to SPD actuals in 2017? Reduced footprint.
- CHAIR: Unknown. Might have used third party UPO in 2023 and 2022.
- METRO: They paid more due to no police staffing available, and it didn't go to the city.
- SE: They paid more as they also had to pay for barricades, signage (hard closure) which are paid by event organizers.
- PARKS: In 2023 they paid the higher amount in Police and this year will pay less.
- CHAIR: Last year the Special Events Office paid for third-party UPO staffing out of a budget dedicated to this staffing for community events.
- PARKS: Prior paid a 1/6 and now 64<sup>th</sup> of actual cost.
- DON: Minimum agreement this time and determine that in the future this can't be a long-term pattern. How can the city help the Fremont Arts Council?
- CHAIR: Does the committee agree to approve \$330 fee for 2024, and future memo documenting plan to increase fees moving forward. Vote taken.
- SE: Roll call vote taken. 9 approvals, 2 abstained. Motion carries.

### **Citywide Event Fee Approval**

#### **Seafair Fourth of July / Torchlight Parade / Seafair Weekend 2024**

- CHAIR: Seafair has proposed 3% increase from 2023 Citywide fees to 2024 Citywide fees. As context, in 2023 Seafair suffered significant theft and impact, due to situation, asked for a 3% increase rather than 10% increase Special Events Office proposed.
- FAS: Theft? Physical or Financial?
- CHAIR: Financial, with a criminal investigation
- SDOT: It isn't the City's responsibility to subsidize. Citizens shouldn't bear the burden of their financial burden. It isn't the City's role to cover their losses. it is a business.
- PARKS: it is unfortunate. We increased all fees for all event organizers but discount a big event that is charging ticket sales, etc.
- CHAIR: I can counter proposal. Reality is that organizer in a challenging spot. Could counter-propose 5% increase?
- SDOT: Negotiation of fees could set precedent for other events to request to negotiate their fees?
- CHAIR: Clarifies that fee negotiation only for designated Citywide events per municipal code. SeaFair events are specifically listed in our codes, as well as definitions for other Citywide events. Non-Citywide-designated special events pay the fees per the fee schedule with no negotiation.
- SDOT: what are we negotiating fees based on? Guidance? Low attendance or what % financial loss.

- CHAIR: Discussion of 2018 to 2023 history of Seafair fees.
- FAS: Understand city supports certain events. Do we give all events breaks that have financial hardships. I support a renegotiation.
- MAYOR: Suggest a memo that we expect to get fee pattern back to get closer to actuals, with a timeline.
- SC: Counterproposal or stick with the 10%. Not sure best route.
- PARKS: Seafair has their use fee for parks waived, and Gas Works portion for Fourth of July.
- SC: Also Seattle Center fees waived.
- SDOT: Once an event is a Citywide event perhaps revenue from event goes into the general funding.
- CHAIR: Need to review the code.
- METRO: Not included is the de-energization of the Torchlight parade wire is \$10,000+. We cannot waive the fees but they are reduced. In favor of a counter proposal.
- DON: Why wouldn't other events request Citywide event designation?
- CHAIR: Could potentially lead to higher fees – for instance some community events who do not pay for SPD labor per current fee structure could then potentially be charged for some SPD labor in Citywide negotiations.
- CHAIR: I will give Seafair a counterproposal. 7% fee increase from 2023 or \$120,000 flat?
- SDOT: Shall we propose 7 % increase and approve a bottom line to move along negotiations?
- SC: Agreed, vote on 7 % increase counter-proposal and bottom is 5 ½% I move we counter propose.
- SPD: Seconded. FAS: seconded.
- MAYOR: Is this public records?
- CHAIR: Yes, the minutes are publicly disclosable. Roll call to approve counter proposal of 7% increase from 2023 fees.
- SE: Roll call vote taken: 11 Approve, 1 abstained.

**Fremont Solstice Parade & Fremont Fair feedback**

- CHAIR: SFD issues with canopy set up
- SDOT: Heard traffic manageable getting and out.

**FIFA World Cup 2026 Updates/Roundtable**

- CHAIR: Any updates?
- SPD: Do we have a point of contact for venue sites or other events?
- CHAIR: LOC (Local organizing committee) is our liaison. We don't have a single point of contact yet. Goal is to have point person.
- SDCI: Heard September meeting with Lumen Field and Reps.
- CHAIR: Not aware of this meeting. Our committee will not engage with World Cup events within Lumen Field, only for events in public space.

• **Review Recent Events** Event Dates for Review 06/06/2024 to 07/10/2024

Seattle Dragon Boat Festival – no feedback	S24JU012	6/7/2024
Loop the Lupe Obstacle Course and 5k Run – no feedback	S24JU123	6/8/2024
On The Block – no feedback	S24JU139	6/8/2024

Georgetown Carnival – no feedback	S24JU145	6/8/2024
Furry 5K Fun Run & Walk – no feedback	S24JU161	6/9/2024
Mermaids and Mythological Beings Parade – PARKS: what was attendance? CHAIR: Unknown. We can ask.	S24JU065	6/15/2024
Taco Time Volunteer Park Criterium – no feedback	S24JU125	6/15/2024
Queen Anne Helpline Run for Home – CHAIR: Feedback from SPD Traffic – route can be challenging to facilitate	S24JU151	6/15/2024
Morgan Junction Community Festival – no feedback	S24JU153	6/15/2024
Reuben's Brews PrideFest – CHAIR: Canceled due to thunderstorms in forecast	S24JU174	6/15/2024
Juneteenth - NAAM Skate Party – CHAIR: Shifted activities to another day due to threat of thunderstorms. SEO will work with event organizer to improve meeting of deadlines in the future. PARKS: Too much last moment responses with a big event. Too many changes. CHAIR: Does PARKS have a final deadline for information/changes? PARKS: depends on situation. CHAIR: Could help to work on creation of deadlines.	S24JU219	6/19/2024
Juneteenth Freedom Fest Rally – CHAIR: Too many last moment responses/requests.	S24JU227	6/19/2024
Fremont Fair – no feedback	S24JU045	6/21/2024
Fremont Solstice Parade – no feedback	S24JU099	6/21/2024
Pride Pull-a-Palooza – no feedback	S24JU081	6/22/2024
Seattle Marathon's Summer 5k/10k/Half Marathon and Kids Fun Run – PARKS: Noise complaints. Directed speakers in the wrong direction.	S24JU191	6/22/2024
Party in the Park - no feedback	S24JU162	6/24/2024
Massive Pride – CHAIR: Will skip all PRIDE events. Will cover in a future special events subcommittee meeting on 7/18.	S24JU165	6/25/2024
Queer/Pride Festival – Skip	S24JU006	6/27/2024
Cuff Pride Festival-Skip	S24JU027	6/27/2024
Wildrose Pride 2024 -Skip	S24JU048	6/27/2024
Unicorn Pride Block Party-Skip	S24JU143	6/27/2024
Harry's Fine Foods Pride Celebration -Skip	S24JU108	6/28/2024
Trans Pride Seattle -Skip	S24JU207	6/28/2024
Union Pride -Skip	S24JU232	6/28/2024
Elysian Pride Beer Garden -Skip	S24JU247	6/28/2024
Seattle Pride Parade -Skip	S24JU100	6/29/2024
PrideFest Capitol Hill -Skip	S24JU102	6/29/2024
Julia's Gay Pride -Skip	S24JU146	6/29/2024
Pride Party in Tilikum Place -Skip	S24JU185	6/29/2024
Greenwood Car Show – PARKS: Need a park use permit. CHAIR: Will discuss requirement with organizer. SFD: Fewer issues this year.	S24JU189	6/29/2024

Better interactions. Need list of food vendors in advance, some added at the last moment.		
Somali Independence Heritage Festival – no feedback	S24JU166	6/30/2024
Seafair Summer Fourth – METRO: Traffic was very bad. Streets are a parking lot and was locked down. Looking at a new reroute. Would help if SPD would help with traffic control. Colleague Took an hour to go from 45 <sup>th</sup> and Stone Way to 45 <sup>th</sup> and Wallingford. They exited the bus to walk to a new location. PARKS: Event set up a day prior to their permit. Contractor set up cable work that wasn't on any notification. SPD: Traffic was an issue. Stone Way still closed, better when construction opened. Was there an attendance cap? PARKS: In VIP area. SPD: Concern of impact of turning away patrons causing traffic nightmare. Need future coordination. SFD: no fence collapses this year. Emergency personnel able to move through crowd better. More medical calls this year. Suggest a free ticketed event (must preregister) to limit attendance/occupancy in park. Security needs to improve, need to check for contraband fireworks. SPD: Security issue –public enters from the water without going through security screening. People throwing backpacks over fence. Suggestion for next year: fence off water to control access. Logistically difficult.	S24JU118	7/3/2024
Downtown Summer Sounds Kickoff & Finale (7.5, 9.10) – METRO – need post-event service delay evaluation. CHAIR: permit for actual roadway is pending feedback. We agreed to July 5 and 12 <sup>th</sup> , and after evaluation would decide on future events. METRO: We will collect the data to provide feedback. METRO: Any update on utility work on Pike Street. CHAIR: I will follow up.	S24JY168	7/3/2024
West Seattle 4th of July Kids Parade – no feedback	S24JY167	7/4/2024
Seattle Tennis Club 4th of July Fireworks – no feedback	S24JY176	7/4/2024
Seafair Pirates Alki Landing – no feedback	S24JY126	7/6/2024
Brewery Running Series X Big Time Brewery – no feedback	S24JY248	7/6/2024

EVENT Prep Topics

- CHAIR: July 18 will discuss PRIDE Events and Anjuna Beats transportation for Gasworks Park on 8/24. Any events to invite to a meeting?
- PARKS: Muz Fest.
- CHAIR: I will invite them. And the Water Lantern Festival
- PARKS: yes, they need a traffic plan.
- SDOT: Agenda request: discuss a permit within a permit. For instance Bicycle Sunday closes off a street and other events utilize the same street closure. Who is responsible for the safety, and traffic control.
- CHAIR: I will schedule this.

ADJOURNED