

Special Events Committee Meeting
02/11/2021
Video Conference Call

Member Representatives in Attendance:

Agency	Representatives	Noted in Minutes As
Citizen Representative	Tom Anderson	Citizen Representative
Department of Construction & Inspections	Tony Jagow	DCI Noise Abatement
Department of Neighborhoods	Angela Rae	DON
Finance and Administrative Services	Brenda Strickland	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Not Present	Metro
Mayor's Office	Domonique Stephens	MO
Parks and Recreation	Carl Bergquist	Parks
Seattle-King County Health Department	Rosemary Byrne	Health
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	Seattle Center
Seattle Department of Transportation	Mike Shea	SDOT
Seattle Fire Department	Tom Heun	SFD
	Lt. Bryan Clenna	SPD
Seattle Public Utilities	Not Present	SPU
Special Events Office	Chris Swenson	Chair
	Julie Borden	SE
	Meli Darby	SE
	Jonelle Mogi	SE
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Victor Hopkins	WSLCB
Special Events Committee		SEC
Special Events Office		SEO

Additional Attendees: Ed Pottharst – DON, Meredith Stone – FAS, Beth Lehman – WSLCB, Amber Udelhoven – FAS/Risk Management

Note: As always, these are “raw minutes notes” based on the discussion of the 2/11/2021 meeting and do not include every word spoken—not a literal transcript—merely a summary of ideas.

Committee Discussion

- Roundtable
 - Introductions
 - Beth Lehman – WSLCB Licensing; Joining for representation from licensing, historically WSLCB representation from officers in the field
 - Amber Udelhoven – FAS Risk Management; Involved in the review of major events City takes on to ensure appropriate measure and level of insurance is met

- Ed Pottharst – DON; Taking on Special Events as Community Engagement Coordinator
- Meeting Minute Review and Vote
 - No meeting minutes to review
- SEC Memo Update
 - SEC worked on developing a set of recommendations to support and continue to support major Special Events as they continue to be allowed under State guidance
 - Currently State is taking steps for vaccinations
 - Memo has been transmitted and now to executive leadership to review; SEO/SEC will want to ensure it is in line with SPD budget issues, etc.
 - Citizen Representative – Requesting current link to State guidelines on Runs/Walks/Rides

Committee Business

Major Event Date Options

Chris Swenson, Special Events Committee Chair, Meli Darby, Special Events Office

- SEC consideration and review of contingency dates
 - Current SPD budget restrictions for overtime staffing; At this time if event needs SPD overtime, we are unable to approve permit for consideration
- There could be some sort of support in the future; Intention is to get SEC to be able to provide concrete feedback, yes or no, to proposed contingency dates from organizers; We are not here to talk about availability of SPD resources, but we would like to look at the calendar to see if proposed contingency dates could work if resources were available
- SEO receiving inquiries from organizers about planning knowing the current climate; Organizers know they may not be able to go through their proposed plan given the current State guidance
- Organizers need a runway of time to plan, looking for guidance on planning and if SEC would consider contingency date options
- Major Events that are historical summer events, looking at proposed contingency dates later in the summer or fall
- Currently SEO exploring new tools to get organized; Today we will share a beta online calendar as we review proposed contingency dates, applications, etc.; Beta calendar intended for internal use only, not sharing with SEC, but can provide updated PDF planning calendars to SEC
- **Parks** – Requesting PDF planning calendar
- Discuss consideration for historic and alternate 2021 dates:
 - Pridefest
 - Historically 2021 date would be July 25-27; Organizer looking at contingency date for September 18-19
 - 2 days of programming on Broadway between John and Roy
 - This is recommendation from Pridefest – If Pridefest happens on this weekend other activations that would happen on usual Pride weekend would follow suit; We would presume that it would be a September Pride weekend in Seattle
 - If major Public Health restrictions are still in place, it is not viable for organizer to move forward with this event unless they can make it possible to get attendees
 - Intent is to activate Capitol Hill during this time – business, retail, etc.
- **Parks** – challenges using Bobby Morris as a venue; May need to rework event a bit since cannot use Bobby Morris as they have planned
- **Chair** – Presenting this to SEC; Sept 18th date from SEO looks like it could be considered, but needs feedback from SEC; All things considered, we don't know what will happen in September
- **Parks** – Initial conversation is to have activation of Cal Anderson, haven't heard about Bobby Morris being a part of activation; Parks in conversation with organizer, for what organizer wants to do, the parks may not work for him; Date is available

- **SDOT** – Potential projects that could conflict; Madison BRT project starts this summer, construction goes across Broadway, SDOT would limit work during any pride weekend; WSDOT looking to replace grid work on Montlake bridge, looking at multiple weekend closures, detour buses from University District to Capitol Hill; detour would go towards John; SEC would need to consider what will happen at Husky stadium; Other events include Fremont Oktoberfest and Greek Festival in Montlake; SPD staffing issue will be the driving point
- **Citizen Representative** – Husky home game on September 18
- **SDOT** – Two home games that have been scheduled – Sept 4 and 18; Currently don't know the kickoff time and don't know if there will be any fans in the stadium; Full schedule should come out soon
- **Chair** – Pride weekend doesn't have specific OT assigned to specific events, 1-4 officers on OT, more about a massive general upstaffing; Fremont Oktoberfest is a massive SPD OT staffing; There are a few conflicts for staffing options between Fremont Oktoberfest, Husky game, and PrideFest on Capitol Hill
- **SPD** – North Precinct staffs Oktoberfest, East Precinct staffs PrideFest, Traffic section will have other stadium events; If non-COVID, the precincts would support, but can't say now if precincts would support due to OT restrictions
- **DON** – Concerns about the businesses and residents in the area; We do anticipate PrideFest to happen every year, but this year looking at a change in the date; Could get businesses and neighborhoods on board through outreach
- **SE** – We know that we will be diving in and reviewing the neighborhood notification process; Acknowledging that notification will be a big part of the reopening
- **Chair** – With Metro not here, is there any more insight on detours/re-routes down Broadway?
- **SDOT** – Detour to buses will be University Bridge; Since trolley buses, they detour at John St
- **Health** – Guidance depends on where we are with COVID and vaccinations; Hard to predict where we will be in September
- **SDCI** – No issues for now
- **WSLCB** – Haven't reviewed application for alcohol yet for in person events; Need to make sure everything is following under State guidelines
- **SFD** – Fire Prevention has no concerns at this time; Can't speak for Medic and whether they will have restrictions/issues
- **Seattle Center** – Fiestas Patras at campus is that weekend; Not sure if/how the neighborhood celebrations follow suit or are doing the weekend before as is reflected in the calendar
- **Risk management/FAS** – Unknown at this point, evolving area of LAW to how much City could be held responsible; Participants will need to prove that contacted virus at event, following Public Health guidelines this is not a concern
- **MO** – No guidance on Pride from MO; Information is helpful for consideration; In next conversation with organizers, since Pride is large in nature, what is the consideration to reduce the footprint or how they see event happening in 2021?
- **Chair** – Hearing that there is no major conflicts for SEC to consider for the proposed move; The reduced footprint/new look will be a part of continuing conversations; SEO recommend to organizer that contingency date can be considered with all of the caveats
 - Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon
 - Provided 4 potential contingency dates for feedback
 - Some of the major events, had to cancel in 2020; Many have postponed event and is honoring ticket sales for 2021
 - Historical date is in June; Not realistic to have event in June since organizers would need full participation for event to be viable

- Organizers asked if could look for a fall date; As SEC is reviewing one of major considerations and functions of SEC to take into considerations conflicts of other events or similar events
- Proposed contingency dates
 - August 21-22
 - Sept 25-26
 - October 9-10
 - October 16-17
- RNR converted to half marathon for 2021 and will look to use 2019 route; Historically RNR has been summer event since Seattle Marathon has been winter event
- **Seattle Center** – August dates would have least amount of conflicts if race continues to start/end in Seattle Center neighborhood; Further into fall regardless of the date, Seattle Center wouldn't be able to give same footprint as before; Later into fall will have more impacts to other organizations; Would need to look at dates and figure out holds, currently not issuing contracts until we know if client could have event, so all parties having more confidence
- **Chair** – Important to note, RNR intention for race, currently can't do a virtual race or ad hoc race, and must have tickets to make it financially viable; Anticipating at least 5-10K participants, presuming that restrictions were lifted for many restrictions currently in place; Presuming others will want to have event and what resources would be available
- **SDOT** – Why is it a 2-day event? Are both dates options? Concur with Gretchen that the August date looks like the best one; Earlier date will stay away from all the other stadium events that happen in September/October
- **Seattle Center** – Since only talking half marathon, do we have start/finish times or time impact for the streets? SEO can follow up with organizers
- **Chair** – There could be State restrictions for length of time still
- **Citizen Representative** – One day would be packet pickup and expo, second day would be race; Organizers also had a 5K in the past, 2 races would have street impacts
- **Seattle Center** – Lumen field traditionally center around packet pickup, Seattle Center would host race; Currently Lumen field is a mass vaccination field and Seattle Center facilities could be tapped as well; Other conflicting events include Puget Sound Heart Walk
- **Citizen Representative** – Will charity walks be approved under guidance or will it be virtual?
- **SPD** – In October, the stadium events will come into play; Stadium/sports schedules not currently out
 - Ballard Seafood Fest
 - Proposing September 10 -12 as contingency date
 - SPD – North Precinct operation and they will need to determine themselves if can support; Traffic section not involved
- **SDOT** – NW Market paving project could be right in the middle of project timeline; Project put on hold, so unsure of schedule or if it will start up
- **Chair** – Looking at the calendar there are a lot of north end events; SEO would want to check in with North Precinct for coverage; Potentially could have too many activations in north end
- **SDOT** – No concerns besides paving project
- **Chair** – Hearing that SEO needs to do research on other activities; SEO needs to hear back on resources, so until can hear back SEC unsure if this date could be considered; SEO will do additional outreach to organizers

Upcoming Meetings

- 2/18/21 - Subcommittee Meeting
 - Review proposal for 2021 SLU Saturday Market
 - Continuing review of contingency dates
- **SDOT** – Proposal for SLU to be run through SDOT HUB coordinators; Requesting maps be sent out in advance
- **Health** – In conversations with organizers of SLU Saturday Market and Mayor’s Office; Currently SLU Saturday Market is a retail market; Would like to have all parties invited to subcommittee
- **Seattle Center** – Update on CHAMP form?
- **SE** – SEO working through CHAMP review; Current form transmitted with Memo for review and feedback