

CITY OF BELLEVUE
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2023
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Freeburg – Parks
Kyle Nelson – Fire
Mike Shovlin – Police
Christopher Rivera – Transportation
Casiano Atienza – Transportation
Claude Iosso – City Manager’s Office
Neal Christiansen – Community Representative East
Mike Ogliore – Business Representative Downtown
Laurie Scott – Downtown Resident Representative
Meredith Langridge - VisitBellevue
Jonathan Rose – King County Metro

OTHERS PRESENT: Hazel Phillips, Emily Martella, Parks

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Freeburg who presided.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: Written and Oral

Chair Freeburg announced that for 2024 most Special Events Committee meetings would return to in-person, beginning with the January meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Sgt. Shovlin. The motion was seconded by Mike Ogliore and the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the November 9, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Sgt. Shovlin. The motion was seconded by Laurie Scott and the motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Routing and Location Subcommittee Report

Casiano Atienza said the only significant upcoming event is the night market on New Year’s Eve. Transportation is still waiting for a traffic control plan and the updated site plan showing the placement of the barriers.

Sgt. Shovlin said a couple officers will be hired and will be posted at the north and south ends of 103rd Avenue NE. Barriers will be installed at the west end of NE 1st Street.

Casiano Atienza said fire has been stressing the need for emergency access lanes and work has been done on that front. The event organizer will reflect them in their plans.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Applications of Intent

❖ **Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink**

Chair Freeburg noted the event dates are similar, starting on November 15, 2024, and running through January 12, 2025. The event operates daily during those dates.

Neal Christiansen asked if there had been any public feedback in regard to the current year's event. Chair Freeburg said only one resident has submitted a complaint in regard to the use of amplified sound. The complaint actually involves a busker, not the ice rink event; the busker is not a part of the event.

Mike Ogliore said there is lighting associated with the event that some members of the public have commented on. Much of the lighting is related to safety and emergencies and is required by fire. The busker comes to the event seeking to make money playing music, and amplified sound is used in a pretty significant and intrusive manner. The complaint made by the resident is well founded, but the busker is not sanctioned by the event. For 2024, the dates are fairly closely aligned with the current year event dates. The event sees some 50,000 skaters annually.

Chair Freeburg commented that one complaint from one person regarding an event that large is pretty amazing.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the 2024 ice rink event was made by Neal Christiansen. The motion was seconded by Sgt. Shovlin and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ **Bellevue Downtown Arts Market**

Chair Freeburg said the event is asking for July 26 to July 28 of 2024.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the event was made by Sgt. Shovlin. The motion was seconded by Laurie Scott and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ **Bellevue Beats & Bites**

Chair Freeburg said the requested dates for the event are June 4 through August 22 in multiple locations. The event is essentially the same as it was for the current year.

A motion to approve date, time and locations for the event was made by Kyle Nelson. The motion was seconded by Neal Christiansen and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing

The Committee was told the date for the event is April 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and that the event would be much the same as it was for the current year iteration.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the event was made by Sgt. Shovlin. The motion was seconded by Kyle Nelson and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ Kelsey Creek Farm Fair

Chair Freeburg noted that October 5 is the date selected for the recurring event.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the event was made by Kyle Nelson. The motion was seconded by Neal Christiansen and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ CRY Holi

Chair Freeburg said the requested date for the Downtown Park event is March 23.

Neal Christiansen asked if the date is earlier in the year than normal. Chair Freeburg said the event is always held near the end of March or the beginning of April, depending on when the holiday falls.

Neal Christiansen asked if the organizer has a contingency in the case of rain. Chair Freeburg said it is definitely an outside event given the use of all the colored powders. There likely are no indoor facilities that would want to host the event for that reason. Sgt. Shovlin added that the event goes ahead rain or no rain.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the event was made by Sgt. Shovlin. The motion was seconded by Mike Ogliore and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ Bellevue Family 4th

Chair Freeburg said recurring event is always on July 4 in Downtown Park.

Neal Christiansen asked if there was any public feedback regarding the current year's iteration of the event. Chair Freeburg could not recall any.

Sgt. Shovlin said the remarks made by the public to the police department were primarily along the lines of how smoothly things went and how great the event is. While everyone wishes they could leave the event and be home in just a few minutes, given the 60,000 attendees that is not going to happen.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the event was made by Neal Christiansen. The motion was seconded by Sgt. Shovlin and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Post-Event Evaluation

❖ The Main Event Wine Walk

Chair Freeburg noted that several members of the Committee met with staff from economic

development, sponsors of the event, to go over a few things. From their standpoint all went well, though there were some questions about the barricades, how they were used and where they were located. Economic development staff did comment on not having know how many departments they would have to work with concerning the event.

Neal Christiansen said the comment in the evaluation about there being too many police at the event was interesting. Sgt. Shovlin said there ended up being about four or five officers. Having the officers on site proved to be the easiest way to block off the various streets. Cars were used to block the streets and officers needed to be there to move them as needed.

Casiano Atienza said the original plan was to use meridian barriers, but the decision was made to use the vehicle barriers with on-duty police. The choice made set up much easier and quicker. In terms of transportation, the event went fairly well. The only hiccup was that the street closures were supposed to start at 1:00 p.m., but the no parking signs that were posted indicated 2:00 p.m. The issue was addressed to everyone's satisfaction.

Christopher Rivera said notes have been taken regarding changes to make for the 2024 event.

Casiano Atienza said overall the event went very well. The fact that the event was held on a Thursday actually made the road closures a bit easier.

Chair Freeburg said the public enjoyed the event, and because the local businesses saw increased profits they are more onboard for holding the event again in the future.

Meredith Langridge said the event was the first event where Bellhop was able to help out and everything went very smoothly. Some who attended expressed a desire to enjoy their wine in the streets, not just in the buildings. Chair Freeburg allowed that there are regulations in place that do not allow that.

C. Comments/Follow-up

Jonathan Rose commented that attending meetings in person will be difficult and asked if the meetings will be 100 percent in person. King County Metro staff often have meeting right before the Committee meetings and often immediately after Committee meeting. There have been occasions where meetings have been double booked, making it difficult to attend in person.

Jonathan Rose said it is always great to work with Casiano Atienza where direct right-of-way impacts occur.

Neal Christiansen asked about the possibility of allowing for remote participation at Committee meetings. Chair Freeburg allowed that not all of the meetings will be conducted in-person. The January meeting will be in-person due to the volume of content to get through. Meetings with less content will continue to be remote, and the format will be announced at the meeting before. It is generally better to hold meetings either one way or the other rather than as a hybrid.

7. NEXT MEETING

❖ January 11, 2024

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Freeburg adjourned the meeting at 9:09 a.m.