

JUBILEE DAYS FESTIVAL COMMISSION MINUTES

September 26, 2016

12:00 p.m.

Present:	Rich Walker	Absent:	Ann Ennesser
	Steve Dumyahn		John Lewis
	Scott Murphy		Brent Paxton
	Christine Wertman		
	Les Martin		
	Craig Butkovic		
	Diane Burkemper		
	Cheri Neal		
	Carla Villalobos		

Minutes

It was moved by Les Martin, seconded by Christine Wertman, to approve the minutes of a meeting held on August 22, 2016. Upon voice vote, all answered aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Diane Burkemper reported that the invoice from Best Sanitation (\$653) is still outstanding.

Rich Walker stated that the expenses were within budget. He anticipated a \$19,400 transfer from the City's General Fund.

It was moved by Cheri Neal, seconded by Scott Murphy, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon voice vote, all answered aye. Motion carried.

2016 Event Observations

Chief Dumyahn stated the parade route change was great. He stated that there was some confusion at the end of the parade but it was obvious that participants did not read the paperwork they were sent regarding parade unit dispersement following the parade.

Carla Villalobos stated that walking participants were happy about the route change. She stated that party goers on Calendonia were not happy the parade didn't pass by there. They stated that the route change was a poorly thought out decision. She stated that the Jessie White Tumblers caused a gap and the gap increased as the parade progressed. It was noted that perhaps this unit should be moved to the front or back of the parade to try to avoid gaps.

Les Martin stated that he was at the end of the parade and did not notice gaps.

Christine Wertman stated that the Park District received two calls complaining that they thought the parade had stopped but then more units passed by.

Carla Villalobos stated that Gibbie Buchholtz stopped participants for photos which caused gaps.

Carla Villalobos stated that traffic crossed at 23rd Street and this traffic should be stopped.

Les Martin asked what constituted a “unit” and “politicians”. He stated that Diane Hewitt had ten to twelve cars, one after another, in the parade. Rich Walker stated that she was advised that two or three from a car club were acceptable, not ten or twelve.

Rich Walker stated that he got a call during which the caller stated that the parade was the worst thing he’s seen in his life and that it was the poorest plan. The caller stated that he waited more than he marched.

Rich Walker stated that he received a call questioning the decision to allow Black Lives Matter to participant in the parade based on all the ugliness that followed on social media. He stated that non-physical confrontations occurred throughout the parade. He stated that the group probably should have paid a fee as a political group. Rich stated that a public agency is conducting a public event and the Black Lives Matter group could not be denied participation.

Cheri Neal stated that the motorcycle unit at the end of the parade was too loud and was obnoxious with the constant revving.

Craig Butkovic stated that MRMC had no issues with the parade.

Terms to Expire

Rich Walker stated that the terms of Craig Butkovic, Les Martin, Brent Paxton and Scott Murphy will expire in April 2017. Scott Murphy stated that he would decline appointment to another term.

Executive Director/Parade Chair

Rich Walker stated that he will not continue as Executive Director and Parade Chair under the present circumstances. He stated that he has invested 148 hours to date in the 2016 event. He stated that the Park District and the Chamber of Commerce are not interested in taking on the Jubilee Days Commission at this time. He stated that Mayor Hill asked for ideas from the Commission members. Mr. Walker stated that the Commission could re-organize as a not-for-profit corporation through the State of Illinois and then eligibility for 501C3 status should be established to allow the group to conduct business as an agency which can receive tax deductible donations and pay no taxes on revenue received. He stated that Mayor Hill continues to pledge financial support in an amount between \$22,000 and \$25,000 per year. The City has agreed to help with the Commission’s reorganization by providing legal resources.

Rich Walker stated that the Commission operating on its own would have the disadvantage of having to provide its own liability insurance coverage and an errors/omissions policy to cover board members. He stated that at the time of the Jubilee Days Committee's dissolution ten to fifteen years ago, insurance costs were at about \$3,500 per year. He stated that a "special event" policy may apply.

Cheri Neal stated that, whether on its own or under the City, without Rich Walker, who is invested enough to file his position and continue the parade. She asked where the group goes from here.

Les Martin stated that a transition person is needed to work with Rich Walker for a year. He stated that, otherwise, it would make for a poor performance at the onset. He stated that paying a stipend would set up future directors. He noted that it is difficult to get volunteers.

Chief Dumyahn stated that it is risky for the Commission to go out on its own. He stated that the stipend could be compared to fees paid to parade units if appearance is an issue.

Rich Walker stated that he would see the Commission through the transition and would not leave without helping his successor.

Rich Walker is requesting a \$3,000 stipend to continue as Executive Director and Parade Chair.

Diane Burkemper stated that perhaps it would be possible to remain under the City for membership appointment and insurance purposes, but be paid a donation instead of having line items in the City budget. If the Commission had sole discretion over how the donation is spend, then a stipend could be paid.

It was moved by Carla Villalobos, seconded by Christine Wertman, that 1) Diane Burkemper would check with David Knabel and legal about the possibility of remaining under the City for membership appointment and insurance purposes, but be paid a donation instead of having line items in the City budget, and 2) if denied, the Commission would make a presentation to the City Council to let them know that without the group continuing as a Commission of the City of Zion, the Commission will dissolve. Upon voice vote, all answered aye. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 24, 2016 at 12:00 noon.

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Diane Burkemper
Secretary/Treasurer