

Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026

Via Microsoft Teams Meeting

Member and Partner Representatives in Attendance:

Agency	Representatives	Noted in Minutes As
Citizen Representatives	TBD	Citizen
Department of Neighborhoods	Najma Sheikh	DON
Finance and Administrative Services Licensing	Toner Eren	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Tyler Pedersen Special Events	METRO
Mayor's Office	TBA	MAYOR
Parks and Recreation	Carl Bergquist	PARKS
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	SC
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Deborah Williams	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Police Department/Traffic	Sgt. Josh Dunbar Lt. Bryan Clenna Lt. Brandon James Sgt. Dean Ikei	SPD Traffic
Seattle Dept of Construc & Inspect/Structures	Edward Kwitek	SDCI Structures
Seattle Dept. of Construc & Inspect / Noise Abatement	James Dasher	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Hannah Tyo	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	Amanda Styer Gregory McKnight	SKCPH
Seattle Public Utilities	Pat Kaufman	SPU
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Kalynn Gubbe	WSLCB
Office of Economic Development	N/A	OED
Special Events Office	Kiah Patzkowsky	CHAIR
Special Events Permit Specialist	Alex Mielcarek Sarah Ly	SE
Special Events Permit Admin	Hana Peoples	SE

Additional Attendees:

- Aaron Anderson, Jess Mullen, Gabe Mcnees, Jerry Gamez (Cherry Blossom Run)
- Marcus Lalario (Hometeam)

- Michael Johnson (Waterfront)
- Geri Poor, Rosie Courtney (Port)
- Bonnie Lackey (Alexander Party Rentals)
- Mark Meuter
- Margo Vansyngel

Public Comment

- None

Roundtable/Announcements

- N/A

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Minute Approval

- Vote to approve **JANUARY** minutes.
- CEN: moved. Parks: second. All in favor, none opposed. **APPROVED**

Other Committee Discussions

- CHAIR: Continued consideration from end of 2025 for a possible moratorium during the summer. SDOT has created a draft map. We will use this map as a guideline as we go through applications. Does Committee prefer setting guidelines instead of a moratorium.
- SPD: For special event that needs a road closure, it would likely be without SPD resources. The third-party officers may not have the bodies to cover either.
- CHAIR: I intend to have a meeting with SPD to look through historical events along with World Cup matches.
- SC: Bowing to SPD and SDOT for this. The intent would still be to be firm on the application deadline with producers, especially more complex events while keeping in mind equity.
- PARKS: I don't see how we as a committee equitably review applications while looking at resources from agencies. Do we want to spread event saturation around?
- CHAIR: Most folks are interested in doing a moratorium?
- SPD: It's also not just game day; it's the whole three-week period of not having resources.
- PARKS: We are talking about officers working 24/7, right?
- SPD: Yes.
- CHAIR: I have concerns about moratorium for entire three-week run. That is too restrictive and we need to allow for businesses and organizations to do unique events. I also understand the resource restrictions.
- SPD: Also, players, fans; VIP it will be a lot of people on gamedays.
- CHAIR: Marches to Match will close streets down and we need to permit these. Pioneer Square will have road closures and there will be events in this area.
- SC: If there are specific proposed guardrails, how to maintain equity and not increase resource strain, in particular SPD. Open to considering all options.
- SPD: The transportation corridors will be affected by street closures. Metro and Stadiums are still coordinating along with pedestrian access and potential events.
- SDOT: I don't have any official stance on this at this time, will connect with Jack.

- CHAIR: Generally, committee is in favor of moratorium for events that affect travel lanes on N+S arterials, leaving the space open for curb use. All of these pending SPD resources. We need to be specific about Marches to the Match and Free Speech events.
- SPD: Staffing of these Marches to the Match?
- CHAIR: We will have specific meetings related to staffing for these.
- SDOT: The intention of these maps is for match days.
- SPD: Third Ave up through Olive will be red for most hours of the day.
- CHAIR: Are we still okay with these corridors in Pioneer Square being case by case basis?
- SPD: Those are travel corridors.
- CHAIR: We are working with SDOT to discuss what the mobility needs are along with vendor management. That area is complicated.
- CHAIR: The Seattle Center area as a case-by-case basis?
- SC: I am comfortable with this for the neighborhood. We are actively wanting to engage with the Uptown neighborhood.
- SPD: Unfortunately, the stadiums and arena, speaking of Climate Pledge, with these planned events, they are not looking at other events going on in the city.
- SC: I've been in touch with Climate Pledge.
- CHAIR: We as a Committee cannot allow for arena and stadium events to dictate when special events can occur.
- CHAIR: Are we general agreement with the summary I shared? A moratorium for travel lanes and allowing for case-by-case requests for curb use, keeping in mind Marches to Match. Also, case by case for Seattle Center and street closures in Pioneer Square. Is this okay without an official vote?
- SPD: No.
- CHAIR: Let's discuss this further down the line.

Cherry Blossom Run

- EVENT: The event is on the morning of April 18 and want to discuss the marathon courses.
- CHAIR: SDOT shared concerns regarding initially proposed route loop around a neighborhood – creates an island with access concerns.
- SDOT: Also share concerns regarding transit access. Suggest potential park locations to gain mileage.
- PARKS: What is the current expected attendance?
- EVENT: We want to stagger it throughout the day but cap at about about 8,000 people. A quarter of that will be doing the half marathon.
- PARKS: Could consider running down to Madrona to minimize impact.
- SPD: Roads will have to be closed.
- PARKS: We will have to figure out how the driveways will exit out.
- SPD: This course minus going into the Mt. Baker neighborhood would be perfect.
- EVENT: There is going to be a staggered start. Would people be able to go up the sidewalk or do we need to close the roads?
- SPD: Yes, we will need to close roads until the last runner.
- PARKS: Can we close just one lane?
- SPD: We can make arrangements for notifications and to escort people out. Also, your event having volunteers and staff assist. There are also cone lines and motorcycle lead. Better to have a full road closure.
- EVENT: Where would the pacers come in along with the bike leads?

- SPD: Organizers need to let people in the area know start times and when they can leave their driveways.
- EVENT: Understood. We plan to start earlier this year at 7am.
- SPD: That is more ideal for us as we can start with your event and then have officers head to other events happening later in the day.
- EVENT: I know there are bus stops along the route. How will we plan around this?
- METRO: We have the 27 and turns around two blocks south of I-90. First inbound zone is under I-90. If the run were to go to Leschi or Madrona, we would have to take out the 27 completely. Prefer the run get turned around before the big hill in Madrona. Our 2 line turns around there. There is a significant impact on buses.
- CHAIR: Could we get the distance if we run the route up Genesee?
- PARKS: The inner loop of that park is about a mile.
- EVENT: Is that paved?
- PARKS: It is gravel.
- EVENT: Would it be considered trail running? We do have some ADA folks we would need to discuss with.
- PARKS: Another possibility is shutting down the Colman Park hill. There is a tunnel that goes under the road and connects to the upper part of the park that is paved.
- EVENT: It's good to know about Colman Park usage and learning about the tunnel there.
- PARKS: The tunnel goes through, but I am not sure how it is paved.
- EVENT: I will go scout Mt. Baker and Colman Park later today.
- PARKS: If you go the Colman route, there is just one or two residents that are connected to the road in the park. The impact would be minimal. Colman is not ADA friendly as it turns into a stair-step approach by the bridge.
- EVENT: We need to find 2 extra miles outside of the park.
- PARKS: You could potentially pick up distance from Mt. Baker Park but would need police crossing but again Genesee is not paved.
- EVENT: The 5K is a lot more manageable. Optimally, we do not go north of I-90.
- PARKS: If we were to use the road in Colman Park, that would pick up mileage.
- EVENT: We can look at Genesee Park.
- CHAIR: While you work on re-routes, we encourage you to look at not creating loops to block residents into an island.
- SFD: Have you discussed two loops in the park at the start?
- EVENT: We received feedback that runners are not interested.
- PARKS: Going through parks gives you more mileage than using streets.
- EVENT: People should be turned around in 2-3 hours. Latest runner finishing up around 10am.
- METRO: A couple of hours isn't terrible but its cutting one bus route that serves people who only have that route option.
- PARKS: Stop at Massachusetts and get mileage before then.
- CHAIR: When you are ready, please upload the update route maps to Eproval.
- EVENT: Is it possible to route the runners up the I-90 trail? We could do a turnaround on the water?
- PARKS: That is a very large hill, you would have to cross Massachusetts.
- EVENT: That sounds like a route to consider.
- SPD: Organizers usually avoid bike paths on I-90 and 520.
- CHAIR: Please update routes in Eproval for continued review.

Hometeam Pioneer Square Activations

- EVENT: We will utilize Occidental Mall to continue to bring people to Downtown and Pioneer Square and use a semi-permanent stage at the end of Occidental Mall and have a screen to stream the World Cup Games, open to the public. Leave space for business load in/out. Our intention is to drive patrons to order food from restaurants in Pioneer Square and CID. We hope to have a Beer Garden. We have the LOC, DSA, Visit Seattle, Pioneer Square Alliance, International District Organizations, the Sounders, the owners of the building our all on board. Some financial support from the Office of Arts and Culture. DSA activations in Occidental Park to create unified vibe on match days. We came up with three different designs. The stage and a permanent LED screen. Ideally have x2 other screens along east/west edges of mall, could be hindrance for pedestrians. Tables/chairs removed on Seattle match days to allow more pedestrian flow. All free and open to the public as well.
- CHAIR: Do you have an estimate on people on match and non-match days?
- EVENT: On non-match days 200-300 people and as we get closer to the finals, we will see more people. .
- CHAIR: On Seattle match days, similar numbers?
EVENT: Very busy before and after and depending on how many non-ticketed people will show up so about 200-400 people.
- CHAIR: Do you have intentions to have performances on the stage?
- EVENT: Yes, we have reached out to different organizations that would like a platform to showcase their work. Usage of the stage would be free to these organizations.
- SDOT: How long will the stages be in place?
- EVENT: 6-7 weeks.
- SDOT: We usually do not allow for stages to be allowed for this long. We will need to escalate this request internally.
- EVENT: We have received support from business in the area but happy to discuss with agencies.
- SDOT: A programming calendar that supports usage of this stage would be helpful to clarify the need for a long-term structure use of the area.
- EVENT: We can give you an idea of what is best use for the area, but we won't have an exact number until we have the actual permit. We can give estimates.
- CHAIR: SDOT lets discuss questions to get to Hometeam.
- SFD: We will take a look at the stage and its location for emergency access and having equipment available for set up.
- EVENT: The stage will be built so we are open to discussing the building plans.
- SFD: Our plan reviewers will meet you and discuss.
- CHAIR: I can facilitate meeting with SFD, SDOT and any other interested parties.
- SDCl: I want to make sure we will be okay with sound levels.
- EVENT: Understood.
- CHAIR: DON, are there any additional notification needs?
- DON: I am not sure at this moment; I will look into it.
- CHAIR: Partners in SPD, any thoughts?
- SPD: No initial thoughts.
- SDCl: Providing power to the stage, it depends on how you are getting power. We will need to discuss.
- SPU: For the activation, we need really good recycling and waste plans and making sure the area is cleaned up. You can let our office know if you want extra bins.
- CHAIR: The intent is to have overnight security?
- EVENT: Yes, we have budgeted for that and will have cleaning crews.
- CHAIR: LCB, any concerns?

- LCB: Would need to hear Lt. Rieder's thoughts but one question: Does Hometeam have a liquor license and plan to expand it for this event?
- EVENT: We do and plan to expand. Is there a law about walking around with drinks?
- LCB: That could possibly come into place if you are sharing a license with other businesses. All licensees will share responsibility.
- EVENT: Does that need to be a fenced in area?
- LCB: It does allow for all agencies to co-mingle in a serving area.
- EVENT: Could people bring drinks to the tables.
- LCB: It could allow for potentially, but we would need to see an application.
- CHAIR: I can facilitate LCB to meet with Hometeam.
- EVENT: Different days would look different and open to discussion.
- CHAIR: Next step is the connection with LCB and SDOT bumping up the longer installation time of the stages and meeting with SFD.
- SFD: If the stage is over 4 feet tall, they require a permit.
- SDCl: That permit that would be through us.
- CHAIR: I can connect with DON about unique notifications for the long installation.

Review Recent Events

McDonald Elementary School – Neighborhood MLK March	SE10209	01/16/2026
MLK Youth March & Celebration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPD: Positive notes on the MLK Youth March and Ethiopian Orthodox March. All good on our end. 	SE10212	01/17/2026
Columbia City Night Market	SE10211	01/17/2026
Ethiopian Orthodox Churches Annual Epiphany Celebration March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • METRO: The Ethiopian Orthodox Churches affected routes with larger impact than stated on the application. • SPD: Positive notes on the MLK Youth March and Ethiopian Orthodox March. All good on our end. 	1391	01/18/2026 - 01/19/2026
Seattle Free America Walkout & March	SE10279	01/20/2026
Blue Friday Fan Rally	SE10303	01/23/2026
Butler Valet – Seattle Asian Art Museum	SE10311	01/27/2026
Silent Vigil and March for Iran	SE10314	01/30/2026
Red Carpet Valet – Up Your Aly Event – Bat Mitzvah	SE10310	01/31/2026
Lunar New Year Lion Dance Blessing 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFD: For the Lunar New Year Lion Dance more so on our end to deal with. Where the Firecracker 	SE10313	01/31/2026

<p>exclusion zone was set and there was a large crowd. The VIPs and elders were set inside the exclusion zone on chairs but due to scheduling it was too late. It was impossible with the large crowd. I will work with the dance team and do the fireworks purchases for them and improve safety measures for the future.</p>		
<p>Greenwood Neighbors Protecting Neighbors – ICE OUT Free Speech Gathering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPD: A peaceful event, the route was essentially outside of that small park, NB from the 8200 block of Greenwood to 85th. Their permit said just a few hundred people but in reality, there was about 1200-1500 members. It became problematic to get people turned around. We prefer going out from point A to point B or making a big loop somewhere. We need to work with organizers to facilitate these free speech marches in a safe manner. 	SE10316	01/31/2026
<p>Silent Vigil and March for Iran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPD: The rule is that 50 people or less, they are to use the sidewalk. They took the streets, but we allowed it. This group is very peaceful but looking at resources, we ask that they stick to the sidewalk for future march events. 	1475	02/06/2026
Butler Valet – Dinner at Sabine Cafe & Bar	SE10345	02/06/2026
Walk to Harbor Chinese Expulsion Remembrance	SE10344	02/07/2026
Butler Valet – Private Event at Stoneway Auto	SE10347	02/07/2026
Butler Valet – Private Event at Fisher Pavillion	SE10348	02/07/2026
My Better Half Marathon	SE10341	02/08/2026
<p>Blue Thunder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHAIR: Specific after-action meeting, feedback collection planned. 	SE10363	02/11/2026

- SC: February 8 free speech event – SC gave guidelines about license from Seattle Center, on the 8th, they did not, when they came to the mural. It's mainly organizer education.

ADJOURNED

