

Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025

Via WebEx Meeting

Member and Partner Representatives in Attendance:

Agency	Representatives	Noted in Minutes As
Department of Neighborhoods	Sonny Nguyen	DON
Finance and Administrative Services	Edwin Cruz Diaz	FAS
Finance and Administrative Services Licensing	Toner Eren	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Michael Anderson	METRO
King County Metro Transit	Eric Stewart	METRO
Mayor's Office	N/A	MAYOR
Parks and Recreation	Lisa Nielsen	PARKS
Parks and Recreation	Diane Driscoll	PARKS
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	SC
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Keith Wyatt	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Police Department/Traffic	Brian Kokesh	SPD
Seattle Police Department	Jason Domholt	SPD
Seattle Dept of Construction & Inspections - Structures	Dean Greenleaf	SDCI Structures
Seattle Dept. of Construction & Inspections / Noise Abate.	James Dasher	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Trevor Partap	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	Ming Leung	SKCPH
Seattle & King County Public Health	Tony Bui	SKCPH
Seattle Public Utilities	N/A	SPU
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Lt Robert Rieder	WSLCB
Special Events Office	Kiah Patzkowsky	CHAIR
Special Events Permit Specialist	Alex Mielcarek	SE
Special Events Permit Admin II	Leslie Kodish	SE

Additional Attendees:

- Beth Sohlberg - Fremont Arts Council
- Mary Paterson - Airshow Climate Action Coalition
- Claire Pinger - Downtown Seattle Association
- Bonnie Lackey – Alexander Party Rentals

Public Comment

- Airshow Climate Action Coalition: Mission is to end the era of the Blue Angels portion of Seafair. Support Seafair but have concerns with emission, noise pollution from Blue Angels. Have also presented concerns to Seafair directly. Inquiring whether Seafair meets contractual and fee obligations to the City and Parks Department. Requests that the SEC does not permit the Blue Angels portion in 2025.
- CHAIR: Please submit the fee question as a formal request to the Special Events Office. Could need to be a public disclosure request.

Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 2/13/2025 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.

Roundtable/Announcements

- SKPH: Tony Bui will be our new contact.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Minute Approval

- Any changes for the minutes? Vote to approve January 9, 2025, minutes.
- ISPD: Motion. SDCI: Seconded it.
- Meeting minutes approved; All in favor, none opposed

Gas Works Park Major Event Projections & Impacts

- PARKS: Evaluating large events at Gasworks Park. 2023 had 36 events, added Day Trip as large event, 11 events permitted as special events. 2024 was 53 total events, added yoga series, added two large events (Mascot Run Club and Anjuna Beats). 2025 adding a sixth large event with AEG's June event.

2025 Schedule: Gas Works Parks

Event Name	Date(s): Event Date (load-in/out)	Event Attendance:
AEG (new concert)	June 14, 2025 (+2/+1)	10,000
Seafair 4 th	July 4, 2025 (+1/+1)	40,000 – 50,000
Day Trip	July 26, 2025 (+3/+4)	10,000
Obliteride	August 8-9, 2025 (+3/+2)	7,000
Anjuna Beats	August 30, 2025 (+2/+2)	10,000
Mascot Run Club	Sept. 27, 2025 (+2/+1)	8,000-10,000

- PARKS: Goal is to spread out large events at least three weeks apart to help mitigate impact on the neighborhood and environment. Noise across the water impacts neighbors. Also trying to mitigate impact to natural areas, and impact during load in/out activities. Plan to add paving and turn-around areas to protect ground in key locations. Capping large events to six events that are over 5,000 in attendance and adding some Parks staffing during load in/out.

- SDCI Struc: Looking forward to working on the temporary structure permits. Past events had issues with getting permits issued. Want to connect with event organizers so we discuss stage layout prior with them, when they put in an application.
- PARKS: I will connect you with them.
- SDCI Structures: Need six to eight weeks out.
- PARKS: Email ParkUsePermits@Seattle.gov and we will connect you with events.
- CHAIR: We worked with AEG and can introduce you in advance.
- SC: Calendar of events for Gas Works is helpful. Ground recovery is critical. We moved Bite of Seattle off the third weekend of July due to overlaps. Are there city resource concerns with Bite of Seattle, Seafair Torchlight, and major event at Gas Works on same weekend? Also overlap between Bumbershoot and major Gas Works event over Labor Day weekend. Long term might want to look at overlap dates.
- PARKS: We have discussed dates with our partners. It has been a consideration, knowing city resources are limited. Sports teams schedules also come out late.
- CHAIR: We discussed Labor Day weekend. Long-term scheduling could be a good committee meeting topic.
- SPD: Last weekend in July is a concern. Torchlight staffing numbers being worked on. Do we know staffing numbers for Gas Works concerts?
- CHAIR: 10,000 attendance event, in 2024 8 officers and 1 sergeant. Didn't hear major safety issues. Event producers provide peer security.
- SPD: That staffing is reasonable, would help to split things up. Resources an issue.
- SC: How to ensure we don't set ourselves up for too few resources across the City on a busy weekend.
- SPD: Torchlight shifting to Waterfront should involve fewer officers than Downtown route.
- SC: Last weekend of July in 2025 should provide good data on resources. Suggest we meet after Torchlight at the Waterfront (so have staffing experience) or before it occurs.
- CHAIR: Need to have event timing conversation.
- CHAIR: Parks books events a year out?
- PARKS: Yes, we schedule a year in advance.
- SPD: We will know by late June our staffing for Torchlight.
- DON: We have received noise complaint feedback from Eastlake and Wallingford neighbors. Can we create a mailer or map of all the Gasworks events for the neighbors to prepare them in advance like Pride events?
- PARKS: Great idea. We have received some complaints also.
- CHAIR: Let's meet to discuss who designs it. What is the end time for large events?
- PARKS: Amplified sound ends at 9:00 p.m.
- CHAIR: Looking at standards for sound. Measurable decibel (dB(C)) for parks contract.
- SDCI Noise: Sections of the code discuss construction. Low frequency is hard to mitigate, and it travels far. Only stopped by masks at their speaker. We require monitoring at the sound booth. We can help coordinate.
- CHAIR: We will continue to invite large Gas Works Park events to committee meetings.

Fremont Solstice Parade Route Options

- CHAIR: Fremont Solstice Parade has been occurring decades. Issue is construction projects for Route 40 and Fremont water main repairs. Organizers have concerns with state of the street surface and sidewalk access for spectators.
- ORG: Construction impacts safe operation of the parade. Potential unknowns regarding state of street surface, status of tree lawns and sidewalk for spectators. Many parade participants people on foot and on wheels on the roadway. People in parade wear masks with low visibility and the interact with the public on the sidewalks. We are proposing a one-year alternative parade route.
- ORG: Preferred proposed alternate route on Stone Way, staging at N 39th St, parade travels southbound on Stone to N Northlake Way, then eastbound on N Northlake Way to end adjacent to Gas Works Park parking lot. Secondary alternate route on Leary Way further NW of downtown Fremont.
- SDOT: Clarify use of lanes on Leary Way NW?
- ORG: Go up in northbound lanes, one side and squish into one lane.
- SDOT: Close all of Leary?
- ORG: Yes including parking.
- SDOT: Challenges with Leary Way Route. Generally prefer Stone Way alternative as it allows for more alternate routes for vehicles around parade. Vehicle crossing likely needed at N. 35th St.
- SPD: Need to discuss this route as they are major throughfares. It is difficult to let cars through. Need to discuss with Traffic.
- METRO: The Route 62 runs on Stone Way N. Timing of parade.
- ORG: Street closes 11:00 a.m. and opens at 3:30 p.m.
- METRO: We can work around this. Route 31 crosses Stone. Would need some crossings for buses.
- SDOT: Might reroute routes due to the water line construction.
- CHAIR: We have other parades where bus crossing occurs during a route, so glad is possibility.
- DON: Not too worried about noise on Stone Way. Expect neighbors are excited about the event.
- CHAIR: Fremont Arts Council has reached out.
- ORG: Yes, we have notified businesses, Fremont and Wallingford Chamber. We haven't heard back from Wallingford Chamber.
- DON: Please email me and I'll connect you with the Wallingford Chamber. Don't forget street closure posters.
- CHAIR: I'll connect you. When will SPD know?
- SPD: I'll reach out to traffic, and we will figure out to make it work. Limit crossing to bus routes and emergency, not public.
- ORG: I haven't put in a permit for Gas Works for June 21.
- PARKS: Date is available, please send in a permit application.
- ORG: Which area is best to request?
- CHAIR: I'll connect ORG and Parks to help you determine.
- ORG: We put up signage from National Barricade used, street monitors, and folding barricades.
- CHAIR: The Fremont Fair is also the same weekend. Construction doesn't directly impact the fair space. Will impact vendor load in.

Fun Run Permitting Requirements – Revisit

- CHAIR: Organizers have lots of questions using sidewalks. We will move this to another meeting.

FIFA updates

- CHAIR: We are working to be the funnel for FIFA questions, watch parties, events. Expect to have a website built to direct inquiries. Investigating a master application, SDOT wayfinding, SDCI building permits installations items. Permitting matrix created to guide production partners to appropriate agencies. Playbooks being developed by Seattle Sports Commission for watch parties, and by Seattle Chamber of Commerce as small business toolkit.
- SKPH: What are we doing for the Club World Cup 2025?
- CHAIR: Expect matches will trend more like a Seahawk game. Matches in Seattle are group stage. No major activations planned.
- SDCI Struc: Parking garage usage for staging, storage containers, trailers, by Lumen Stadium.
- CHAIR: for 2025 or 2026?
- SDCI: It is for the Club World Cup. Impact on parking being used.
- CHAIR: Tournaments occurring during busy event times. We will support historical events that occur. Need to work with partners on the resource crunch. Scope and scale of new events in 2026 will help determine their feasibility.
- SC: 2026 marks 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!

Review Recent Permitted Events

Event Dates for Review 1/9/2025 to 2/12/2025

Name of Event	Permit No	Event Start Date
Shawn Yim Memorial & Procession – King County Metro. Thank you all for committee supporting this event. SPD: Went as planned, lots of buses. Occidental bus unloading created some backups in SR99 tunnel but KC Metro kept things moving. METRO: Thank you to all who helped put this on. Amazing support. Went smoothly except for one bus breakdown in the middle.	S25JA043	1/10/2025
Stove to Stove: A Toast to Coast: No comments	S25JA031	1/11/2025
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday March (McDonald): No comments	S25JA011	1/17/2025
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March (Orca K8): SPD: Time change helped for staffing. Early start is a better option going forward. CHAIR: Unpermitted MLK event occurred.	S25JA033	1/17/2025
Lunar New Year Celebration - Lion Dance Blessing: SFD: Event needs to be set up with right fire extinguisher and fire exclusion zone set up. CHAIR: Upcoming event has no fireworks. Trying to connect with the Lion Dancing to honor out public safety concerns.	S25JA006	1/18/2025
Columbia City Night Market:	S25JA008	1/18/2025

SDCI Struc: Heard group has loading dock, any stages? SFD: No, same set up.		
White Rabbit Group & Euphoria Project Present Disco Lines (1.18): No comments	S25JA013	1/18/2025
Seattle Women's March 2025: CHAIR: Some wanted to change route last moment. Lead organizer great to work with. SC: No issues, ended at the fountain at the campus. Timely payment of their invoice.	S25JA023	1/18/2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Youth March and Celebration (Parks): No comments	S25JA032	1/18/2025
Virginia Mason Information Picket: No comments	S25JA034	1/21/2025
Magnolia Flea: Monthly event. FAS: Vendor list was not complete or on time. Have food trucks. We probably will need to make an in person visit in March. CHAIR: Same organizer as SODO Flea Market. Some turnovers with organizer. I will connect with the organizer to warn them to turn in a complete vendor list. SFD: Set up was fine. Need vendor list in advance.	S25JA014	2/8/2025
Magnuson Craft Markets: CHAIR: First event was February 8 with alcohol. No comments. CHAIR: Wants a similar market with no alcohol, not sure if needs to be a special event. SFD: Okay to continue to permit so we get vendor list, had 10 food trucks.	S25FE076	2/8/2025
My Better Half Marathon: SFD: Had to correct finish line, tents, wrong fire extinguisher for the propane heaters. Had a permit for two tents, third tent (different group) didn't have a permit.	S25FE012	2/9/2025
Support for Serbian Students Against Corruption and Totalitarian Regime: canceled event	S25FE084	2/8/2025

Anything Else

- SC: Notify SDOT and SFD Traffic that we expect to have a map of the memorial stadium construction perimeter shortly.

ADJOURNED