

Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes

April 9, 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	Camilo Penuela Mya Camarillo	METRO
Mayor's Office	TBA	MAYOR
Parks and Recreation	Carl Bergquist	PARKS
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	SC
Seattle Fire Department	Lt. Jamie Scott Lt. Deborah Williams	FIRE / SFD
Seattle Police Department	Sgt. Jason Domholt Lt. James Sather Sgt. Matthew Didier	POLICE / SPD
Seattle Police Department/Traffic	Lt. Bryan Clenna Sgt. Dean Ikei	SPD Traffic
Seattle Dept of Construc & Inspect/Structures	Dean Greenleaf	SDCI Structures
Seattle Dept. of Construc & Inspect / Noise Abatement	James Dasher	SDCI Noise
Seattle Department of Transportation	Jack Bighorse Hannah Tyo	SDOT
Seattle & King County Public Health	N/A	SKCPH
Seattle Public Utilities	Pat Kaufman	SPU
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Lt Robert Rieder 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:

- Laura Robinson, Ron Montague (Lake Union 10K); Katie Nishimura, Michelle Locke (Dragon Boat Festival); James McAlister (Seattle Spring Marathon)
- Rosie Courtney, Marie Ellingson (Port of Seattle)
- Bonnie Lackey

Public Comment

- N/A

Roundtable/Announcements

- CHAIR: Special Event Street Use Moratorium maps are available on our website. Spreadsheet calendar + list to track events in June & July, including FIFA related events, is on SharePoint.
- SDCI: I will get you an internal calendar listing private property events.
- CHAIR: Flagging “The Ave, A Placemaking Pilot” multi-date application out for review. One of the dates they’ve proposed is closing a block of University Way on June 13, which is UW’s commencement. I have received feedback asking that date be reconsidered from both UW and Council Member Rivera to consider impacts of closing this area on commencement day. There is a request in Eproval for committee members to review.
- SDOT: SDOT cannot approve that date.
- CHAIR: I am curious to hear from our partners in SPD Traffic and Metro for this June 13 event. Would like to have the June 13 date reconciled two weeks from now.
- CHAIR: I also wanted to discuss June & July sub-committee meetings. I do not want to cancel the full committee meeting on June 11. June 18 would be a sub-committee date, and we could consider cancelling that one. Also, July 2.
- SDOT: Would the committee consider moving the full committee meeting to the 18 and cancel the sub-committee meeting? We could have some feedback sharing after the first match.
- SC: I am not opposed but should consider capacity with SPD and SFD.
- CHAIR: Not something we have to decide on in the moment.
- SC: I like Jack’s idea of a reflection after the first game.
- CHAIR: Let’s think on this and table this.
- PORT: When would the committee review the Torchlight Parade?
- CHAIR: Sometime in June. Need to reach out to Seafair folks.
- SDOT: Regardless of full meeting, SDOT would concur with cancellation of subcommittee meetings during FIFA.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Minute Approval

- Vote to approve **February** and **March** minutes.
- March: CEN motioned, PARKS second, all in favor, none opposed. Approved.
- February: CEN motioned, PARKS second, all in favor, none opposed. Approved.

Lake Union 10K

- EVENT: Footprint of 10 in August around Lake Union. We will start at Westlake and 9th. We run in northbound lanes on Westlake. This is the same route we did in 2019, but the number of participants has grown.
- SDOT: Some roads on those intersections have been signalized which will require officers.
- EVENT: I sent the 2019 traffic control plan but as soon as we get your feedback, we will update the map for 2026 and share, along with officer placement.
- SPD (CLENNA): You want to close a whole road, SB/NB of Westlake prior to the bridge? Also, last year the SLU trolley had issues with scheduling. Have you addressed this with them?
- EVENT: For the first question, Westlake we would like some help and recommendation. The bus lane and traffic lane at a minimum. We would cone parts of Westlake... where NB traffic is so runners wouldn't spill into cars. Another idea is to close the whole of Westlake up to the Fremont Bridge. It would cause traffic issues, but it would be safer. Either would work for us.
- SDOT: Traffic laws have changed so we will need to evaluate.
- EVENT: Understood.
- CHAIR: How long do you typically utilize Westlake for?
- EVENT: Last year, we cleared everyone off after 35 minutes from the start.
- SPD: For full disclosure, we close the NB lanes anyway. We will shut off all of NB traffic, prior to the run's start. Are you saying the start line is going to be further north this year?
- EVENT: Yes, we want to take out the corner, so runners do not have to take an immediate right to the road.
- SPD: Ok, Westlake itself, instead of 9th.
- EVENT: Yes.
- SPD: That means we would need to close off earlier then. One issue we always come across when we have the people that want to make a left-hand turn and that blocks off traffic. It's difficult for cars to turn into the lots.
- EVENT: We want to start the race early in the morning. We defer it to your expertise.
- SPD: I'd rather close off all of Westlake. There are hotels in the area as well. Another question I had was about the SLU Trolley having an issue with scheduling last year. Have you addressed this with them?
- EVENT: We have been in contact with them. We appreciate the introduction to them.
- EVENT: Thoughts on closing all of Westlake?
- SDOT: We would not want to close South on Westlake
- EVENT: Okay, so try to keep runners in the bus lane, if they spill out, they will go into the NB lane.
- EVENT: We can get our maps updated and get it to you by Monday or Tuesday.
- CHAIR: Great, thank you.
- SPD: Do you know what time you want to set up the start arch?
- EVENT: Around 7am. We will do a much better job of waves this year so to help with runner traffic.
- SPD: Sounds good.
- CHAIR: Are there any notes that we need to discuss as a committee of the north or east side of the lake?
- EVENT: I think last year was the first time we took a traffic lane on the University Bridge. It worked out well for us.
- SDOT: We will keep an eye on construction with much of it going on. As the event gets closer, we will be in touch with any last-minute information or changes.

- SPD: Do you know if the construction will be going on?
- SDOT: I know they are behind schedule, but I suspect there will still be crews working down there.
- METRO: I want to confirm the plan is to take one lane SB on University bridge?
- EVENT: Yes.
- METRO: That is a pretty narrow lane width, so it gives us some anxiety.
- EVENT: Runners start at SLU, so they are pretty spaced out by the time they get to the University Bridge.
- EVENT: We can cone a smaller portion.
- SDOT: Standard is 2 feet from the skip line.
- METRO: I think 2 feet is fine.
- EVENT: I would like to have a clarification on the east side of the lake. I want to know where course monitors and officers placed.
- SDOT: Any signalized intersection requires an officer, not a licensed flagger.
- SPD: Eastlake construction has added traffic lights along Fairview; those would require officers.
- EVENT: There have been so many changes in the area.
- SPD: We can send you a traffic plan and we can discuss flagger versus a PEO or officer.
- CHAIR: I can set up a separate meeting to discuss.
- SDOT: We would also like to join this meeting. We have rules around flaggers controlling multiple lanes of traffic.
- CHAIR: Once we have the updated TCP and SDOT and SPD have a chance to take a look at this, does early May sound reasonable to meet?
- SDOT: Sure.
- SPD: Sometimes when we execute a plan, we make notes based on how things are working out. It could be a situation we might need to add people.
- CHAIR: That will be a good thing to bring up during that meeting.
- CHAIR: Any questions around the use of Lake Union Park?
- EVENT: I would love to be able to place a trailer overnight in the park. Could we add this to the permit?
- PARKS: We can talk offline.
- SDOT: There is a little section of parking that is partially run by SDOT.
- EVENT: Yes, we are aware.

Seattle Spring Marathon

- EVENT: Our event is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. It follows the same route as the Seattle Ghost marathon. The expected attendance is 500 and is capped. The start and finish area is the north end of Genessee Park and then it will head south of Lake Washington Blvd.
- CHAIR: We have an option of heading East on I-90 or continuing North on Lake Washington Blvd.
- SPD: When people run across the bridge, we get negative feedback from the public. I would prefer these over sidewalks, however.
- EVENT: I read from Cherry Blossom Run's meeting notes.
- SDOT: SDOT also prefers I-90 path. Allows us to avoid blocking bus routes.
- METRO: We prefer I-90 but are okay with as only one route is impacted.
- EVENT: We also prefer I-90.
- CHAIR: Sounds like we are all in agreement for the use of I-90 trail.
- PARKS: I can't quite tell if you are running thru Coleman to get to I-90.

- EVENT: Yes, that is correct.
- PARKS: Are you using the tunnel or the road hill?
- EVENT: Road hill. I will send a clearer map.
- CHAIR: Now that we landed on the use of I-90 we will need a full traffic control map as soon as possible
- EVENT: Understood.
- CHAIR: Do you need to utilize roads with the 500 participants?
- EVENT: Lake WA Boulevard is wide enough for us.
- CHAIR: Southbound lanes or Northbound lanes?
- EVENT: It would be the Northbound lanes for the entire course. Could we close both directions?
- SDOT: I don't think that warrants closing both with only 500 participants. We want to keep the SB lanes open.
- EVENT: Understood, we will stick with closing the NB lane.
- SDOT: On the way back, you could jump back on the trail like the Cherry Blossom Run. It allows us to re-open a major road by Seward Park.
- CHAIR: Use of the I-90 trail will require permission from WSDOT. Do you need an introduction?
- EVENT: Yes, we do.
- CHAIR: I can introduce via e-mail. We will wait on an updated traffic control plan and communication with WSDOT.
- EVENT: Understood.
- PARKS: Coleman was not a part of the permit so I will add that.

Dragon Boat Festival

- EVENT: We will begin set up on Friday, June 12 at 10am, festival on Saturday, June 13 and breakdown when the race ends at 4pm until about 7pm. Expect around 500 spectators and the event is free and open to the public. Only paddlers pay to be in the race.
- EVENT: We have one start boat and 2-3 safety boats to keep recreational boats away from the racecourse. Lane marker buoys will be set up and eight floating docks for docking. For land operations, we will have tents and live entertainment on a stage. Additionally, we will have food trucks, vendors and porta-potties.
- SC: How long will the race go?
- EVENT: 4pm is our target end time that we tell racers. Last year we ended around 2:30pm.
- SDCl: The bandshell in your presentation has a picture of the stage? From that photo, I see a stage that is less than 2 feet off the ground. Looks like a steel-frame tent?
- EVENT: It is a canvas tent that is fully weighted and has a small staircase.
- SDCl: As a tented event, you will need to share this with Fire as well.
- EVENT: Understood. We haven't had to get construction permits before. We will contact Fire.
- SDCl: There was a capsized two years ago?
- EVENT: Yes, they were in good spirits though and were okay.
- EVENT: We have less space now in the park because of the tall grass, condensing layout in north end of park, would love to discuss options for tent placement inside the park. I would love to learn the regulations around this.
- FIRE: I will put my contact info in the chat if you want to reach out directly.
- SPD HARBOR: We will be there and will have the same footprint as last year. We will be in the vicinity from 8am until the end.
- EVENT: Thank you for your help.

- PARKS: Plan looks great and I have been assured that the grass will be good to go by the event. But please have a backup plan in the case it is not available.
- EVENT: Is there a map or project map where they are going to sod first? This would allow us to pivot if needed.
- PARKS: Let me get that info and I will get it over to you.
- SC: I'm sure you are aware of World Cup events. The park is a part of the Unity Loop, so I encourage you to make sure you connect with folks at the Chamber and LOC to encourage folks in town for the World Cup to also attend yours. The Indigenous People's Day event at SC will also be on the day of your race.
- EVENT: We would definitely love to share this with out-of-town participants. Thank you for sharing this. We are a community event for Seafair. I have been attending Region Ready events; we will make sure to get added to the official calendar.
- FAS: Vendor information looks good. I updated instructions to make things clear so if you could just review that.
- EVENT: Understood. Our vendor list is almost done. We will get it to you soon.
- SPU: I want to make sure your food vendors are aware of compostable containers. If you are interested in reuseable containers, contact us.
- EVENT: Thank you.

Review Recent Events

Name of Event	Event Start Date
<p>Laying of the Green Stripe & St. Patrick's Day Parade SDOT: We did get concerns from the Mariott for parking related access. CHAIR: Organizers were a bit more nonchalant about the impact on the waterfront. We will work with the organizer to get better info on exact locations of port-a-potties. SPD: The only thing that was not great was the hotel not being notified about the route. Issues would have been mitigated if they were notified. CHAIR: We heard from multiple Waterfront stakeholders that notifications seemed to be lacking or nonexistent. We will start to ask organizers that impact Alaskan Way to attend a Waterfront stakeholder meeting so those concerns can be addressed directly with Waterfront stakeholders.</p>	3/13 & 14
St. Patrick's Day Dash	3/15
2026 Running of the Beavers 5K Run/Walk	3/21
Queen Anne Little League Parade	3/21
Magnolia Little League Parade	3/21
Class Day Regatta	3/21

Big Climb	3/22
<p>Seattle Tempest vs Colorado Alpenglow</p> <p>FIRE: I am working with them as we are having ongoing issues for egress off the field. There are consistently people parking in front of the gate. We might have to go with hiring a towing company.</p> <p>CHAIR: It's street parking that is being utilized?</p> <p>FIRE: It's not street parking but they are using it like it is. It's members of the public not the organizers. Open to suggestions to take back to the organizer.</p> <p>PARKS: It's a road parking area. It's SDOT.</p> <p>CHAIR: I can connect with SDOT.</p> <p>SDOT: We could include no parking in the TCP. We will take a look.</p>	3/22
<p>Crosslake Connection Grand Opening</p> <p>PARKS: They did an excellent job.</p>	3/28
<p>No Kings Day Rally for Democracy: West Seattle Junction</p> <p>CHAIR: We got a lot of continuous feedback from the businesses in that area. I shared with them that their concerns were heard but free speech rallies are permitted.</p> <p>CHAIR: I plan to connect with organizers to see if we could use a park instead of shutting down an entire street for future similar events. Organizer communications to businesses and press created frustrations.</p>	3/28
<p>No Kings Rally March</p> <p>CHAIR: They submitted a permit for the Cal Anderson usage.</p> <p>SDOT: Hats off to SPD to manage things the best they could. They should have had a permit for their route.</p> <p>SC: We were glad to have received route information right before the event. We want people to avoid using the Space Needle turnaround and want them to head over to Harrison.</p> <p>CHAIR: Maybe we could have SPD stationed in that turnaround area in the future.</p> <p>PARKS: They were not allowed to have vehicles in Cal Anderson Park but had them. Stage placements were not as planned.</p> <p>CHAIR: Organizers called me the morning of the event to ask why vehicles were not allowed in the park.</p>	3/28
White Rabbit Group Presents Gorgon City	3/28

Seattle Tempest vs Utah Wild	4/3
2026 Husky Open	4/4
Tenacious Ten	4/4

Anything Else

- CHAIR: Next week we will have an internal subcommittee meeting for Pride Weekend events in Capitol Hill. On May 7, we will spend the first hour discussing Pride Fest and Julia's as they are overlapping. Additionally, we will have discussion about the Pike/Pine corridor events with organizers. On May 21, we will discuss the actual Pride Parade with organizers.
- CHAIR: Let me know if there were organizers you would like invited to a future meeting, we can make it happen.
- SDCI: I won't be there next Thursday.
- CHAIR: Thank you everyone.

ADJOURNED