



**Seattle**  
Special Events Office

Special Events Committee Meeting Minutes

March 9th, 2023  
VIA WebEx Meeting

Member and Partner Representatives in Attendance:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Noted in Minutes As</b>
Citizen Representatives	N/A	Citizen Representative
Department of Construction & Inspections	Dean Greenleaf	DCI Structures
	Dan Powers	DCI Noise Abatement
Department of Neighborhoods	Osbaldo Hernandez-Sahagun	DON
Finance and Administrative Services	Toner Eren	FAS
King County Metro Transit	Jonathan Rose	Metro
Mayor's Office	N/A	MO
Parks and Recreation	Carl Bergquist	Parks
Seattle-King County Health Department	N/A	Health
Seattle Center	Gretchen Lenihan	Seattle Center
Seattle Department of Transportation	Mike Minor	SDOT
Seattle Fire Department	N/A	SFD
Seattle Police Department	Douglas Raguso	SPD Operations
	Jung Trinh	SPD
	Dorian Korieo	SPD
	Marc Garth Green	SPD Harbor Patrol
	Lt. Bryan Clenna	SPD Traffic
	Diane Lalor	SPOC
Seattle Public Utilities	Pat Kaufman	SPU
Special Events Office	Randy Wiger	Chair
	Hannah Tyo	SE
WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board	Beth Lehman	WSLCB

Additional Attendees:

- N/A

*Note: As always, these are "raw minutes notes" based on the discussion of the 03/09/2023 meeting and do not include every word spoken - not a literal transcript - merely a summary of ideas.*

**Roundtable announcements**

- SEATTLE CENTER: Bumbershoot has made their initial announcement

**Meeting Minute Approval**

- Vote to approve February minutes.
- One change – removal of “relisten here” line from note taker. Move to approve with this edit to the minutes.

- Meeting minutes approved; All in favor, none opposed

### **Other Committee Discussions**

- CHAIR: Workshop review – went well, did a quick overview and had a short time for Q&A
- SEATTLE CENTER: Seemed short/rushed, would have liked more time for Q&A as that seems like the most important part of this kind of event.
- SDCI Structures: Nice to get multiple departments together. It allows for me to learn more about what other departments are doing and helps me direct people better.
- METRO: Nice to meet people in person. There was good networking and meeting people in the lobby.
- SDOT: Agree it felt a little rushed, but it was a good time to connect. I think extending the Q&A time would be great.
- SPU: More Q&A time, but good to see people
- PARKS: Ditto
- CHAIR: Please feel free to email me feedback or ideas as well. It was good to give people a perspective on how the permitting works. It was great to see people in person. I am considering having the May meeting in person, or even April.
- Discussion on location – SMT is the most central option at 5<sup>th</sup> and Cherry. There are future options at Seattle Center and Harbor at Gaswork Park.
- Discussion in Chat: Handouts or a packet would be really helpful for attendees at the presentation (note: there was a simple handout for attendees)

### **Post Event Review/Comments:**

- Polar Plunge on Alki – Went well from a Harbor Patrol Perspective
- Hot Chocolate –
  - SPD Traffic: Started about 6 minutes late. Only 1 barricade dropped off at each intersection which was not enough to span the street, not good. People were driving around barricades since they didn't span the street. The Battery Street SFD location was not re-notified. Some Metro Bus drivers seemed unaware of the closures. Once the race started everything went okay. There was 1 PEO, 1 UPO, and 1 third party UPO that called out, so out of all 3 buckets there was 1 call out from each. We are re-evaluating barricade staffing and barricade amounts. The event will be required to put barricades in and remove them.
  - CHAIR: Is there an idea of what happened with those barricade amounts?
  - SPD Traffic: Not sure, might be the TCP was not read correctly.
  - SDOT: I did add numbers of barricades required on the TCP's, but this is new and it may not have been read. We did talk to national barricade. I will also add a note on the fire station.
  - SPD Traffic: Yes, we have taken care of that communication. But do want to make sure SFD is aware.
  - METRO: This was a rough event for us and we will work on training and communication with our re-routes. The route finalization happening so close to the event is challenging. One thing I will work on is working on our end to assign the closest route idea possible to our folks earlier.
  - Seattle Center: That first big event coming back is indeed a challenge. Overall seems like it went well. For the record, I want to note the 15K route not being possible is challenging for the producer of the event. I personally have concerns that if that route is not possible for the producers this event may go away. It would be sad to see this event go away due to the inability to get staffing/inability to have a 15K/etc.
  - SPD Traffic: I had a candid conversation with the organizer and we did talk about what it would be like to have more 3<sup>rd</sup> party UPO's, which is expensive on a Sunday.

- METRO: It would be great not to have to re-invent these routes every time.
- CHAIR: it is on my radar to do, once we have capacity
- SDP Traffic: it would still require enough staffing.
- PARKS: yes of course, but at least there would be an idea of how many officers they would need, whether it's SPD or 3<sup>rd</sup> party UPO's.
- SEATTLE CENTER: And knowing well in advance would help event organizers.

### Special Events Forecast

- Coming up this weekend Green Stripe, St. Patrick's Day Parade, QA LL Season kickoff parade, St. Patrick's Day Dash, LLS Stair climb. Looking ahead Running of the Beavers, UW Cherry Blossom Run. What is the word on Cherry Blossom
- SPD Traffic: It's on a bike path, so not too concerning for us. Organizer is aware of the issues on traffic from last year, not sure about mitigation plans.
- CHAIR: We are only permitting the Sunday event as Saturday is all on campus. The event did bring in Jared Loranger, so we are hoping it may have better results.
- There are also several UW rowing and water events. I don't believe there is a need to meet, but we can if folks feel like they would like a committee meeting,
- SPD Harbor: I don't think there is a need as it is water based and we have been in touch with the organizer. We have good communication with them.
- CHAIR: Emerald city Bike Ride is looking at new dates. Originally planned April 30, but they are looking at new dates. Tenacious ten is also coming up and 4/8 White Rabbit and CMF Presents at Magnuson hangar 30. So far the issues that are coming up don't seem to need a committee meeting, but we can meet if anyone has concerns.
- PARKS: We should have a Subcommittee meeting on White Rabbit if we can.
- CHAIR: I will see if I can schedule a meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with the relevant departments since our subcommittee meeting times are full until 4/6

### Anything Else

- SDCI Structures: Any idea on the grandstand set up at the UW Rowing events?
- CHAIR: I believe it is more like a stage, but we can check on it.
- Seattle Center: Since I won't be here next month, at the end of April there will be a full clinic at Seattle Center Campus. It's a big deal and exciting to have it back fully for the first time since 2020. I will send the link for folks to sign up and volunteer. Seattle Center presents the Seattle/King County Clinic on April 27-30, 2023 ([seattlecenter.org/skcclinic/](http://seattlecenter.org/skcclinic/))

### Pride Weekend Prep Topics

- SDOT: Main concerns from me are business access, pedestrian access, and requesting a closure of Pine.
- CHAIR: Individually these street parties were complying, but all together, they created some concerning things around fencing and crowds. There were some issues around how the sidewalks looked and discouraged foot traffic to businesses as it seemed uninviting. Businesses are concerned about lost revenue. We discussed requiring fencing to be a certain amount of feet from the buildings (ie. Fencing can be placed 8ft from building, so that it's wider than the old narrow sidewalks)
- SDOT: Not just the fence, but the fence footings should be further away. Also wondering about the stage from Queer bar that effected Rhino Room last year. Queer Bar wants to move their stage to the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Pine, which is a concern. Wondering the perspective from SDCI noise on that.
- SDCI: I'm not sure it will make a hard difference.
- SPD: I might have an issue with that. There will be a sound tunnel. Wild Rose is facing east, Unicorn is facing west and Queer Bar is facing south. Could it be Queer Bar facing north, Wild Rose facing west and Unicorn facing east so we don't create a tunnel of sound where they're all slowly turning up their sound to be heard over the other parties? The other big issue I saw was the fire lane issues.

The idea of “we’ve always done it this way” is strong here.

- CHAIR: Closures were partial in front of Unicorn and the travel lanes were open, which led to large wait lines of people in the un-barricaded travel lanes on pike to 12<sup>th</sup>.
- SPD: there is an apartment complex there, so they had to allow residents to go into their apartment complexes. People were driving up and down these spaces in order to reach residences.
- CHAIR: Right. Sharing some photos of the Fencing crossing sidewalk at the Unicorn. These alcohol areas/beer garden fencing needs to be attached to each host brick and mortar building entrance (for an extended service area). Alcohol licensing for these businesses requires the physical connection, it’s a much more expensive and different license otherwise. More photos showing long lines of people in traffic lane. Sharing more photos of how the fencing obstructed views, fencing, lines, and very tight sidewalk widths. This is certainly a safety concern. 11<sup>th</sup> and Pine was the most concerning spot for me, but we’re also hearing competing sound systems and crowding in general is a concern.
- CHAIR: I want to clearly communicate to all of these events at next weeks subcommittee meeting our concerns about safety, ideas on how to adjust the layout in order to improve safety for all, and clear expectations on how we will permit these events.
- PARKS: So what is the power of the Special Events Committee to get these groups to work together?
- CHAIR: I hear that. The SEC can provide a perspective on thinking wholistically about how these events work together because the individual events are focused on their own small businesses. I don’t think they’re resistant, but we do need to provide them with a plan.
- PARKS: I agree with you on everything you just said, but this is likely their biggest income weekend, so proposing smaller footprints may not be what they want.
- CHAIR: We do have the power to impose conditions that will protect public safety.
- METRO: In regards to 11<sup>th</sup> and Pine, this would be a new closure for us necessitating another re-route. A concern because it will direct even more traffic to the already bottlenecked john street. From KC Metro’s perspective, we are willing to give this a trial run in 2023 (with no promise for 2024) ---under the condition that we have sufficient UPO support at those barricaded intersections. At Broadway and John St (Egan Orien’s event), I understand from a couple of sources that there were no UPO’s as part of this event last year, so we would need UPOs there.
- SPD: We had security just but no UPO’s at those intersections.
- CHAIR: the re-routes were for all 3 days last year, because these events occur throughout the weekend, not just on the day of the Pride march. So yes, with this closure of Pine, then John St will be the only East west travel lane in the area. For 2 of the 3 days, we see 4 cross streets closed leaving only John Street as the East West travel and it gets down to one lane at some sections. I suspect we will need to have SDOT, SPD, Fire, and Metro to coordinate how this can be organized better.
- SPD: (Sharing stage concept) showing stages facing away from each other which moves entry points away from each other. This would ease competing noise, lines and more. We would need to look at entry/exit for the residences, but this could help.
- SDOT: I like this proposal, can we continue to discuss this with Dorian.
- CHAIR: I will set a meeting with SDOT, Dorian, Fire and others to come up with a complete proposal.
- SPD: We can’t be fixing traffic and egress issues on the fly like previous years, so we need to be clear about our expectations for all of these events for safety.
- SEATTLE CENTER: Can the road closures and signage be done by the city? One person does this and it is split by the events? Is there a way to do that?
- CHAIR: We don’t have a mechanism in the Municipal code for that, but if we got voluntary agreement we could try and figure something out to support them.
- SDOT: I don’t have an issue coordinating helping with rentals and signage, but not sure how we charge for that
- SPD: Would be great if there would be a hardening around the areas with hard closures, like we do with the pride parade. Jersey Barriers? Vehicles? How can we do that here to protect the crowds.
- CHAIR: What do we do for CHBP? Similar footprint.
- SPOC: The difference between block party and pride is that all of our resources are exhausted during

pride. We got creative with the Parade last year to harden the roads for the Parade, but this will be challenging

SIDE NOTE:

- SPD Traffic: White Rabbit event is on the phone requesting officers for patrolling the exterior. What is the next step? I recommended 3<sup>rd</sup> party, but they want SPD.
- CHAIR: The event will get charged for them as a commercial event through our office. You can direct him to me to discuss.
- SPOC: Loop in LT. Osbourne on that discussion as it would be his officer.

ADJOURNED