



City of Bridgeton
Parks & Recreation
Department

Terry Briggs, Mayor
Brendan Kane, Director

Special Events Commission Meeting
July 19, 2021 Post Parade Meeting Reporting

Open: 6:00 PM

Present: Matt DeWitt (Chair), Julie Chase, Connie Buenemann, Josie Hudson, Al Thal, Ginger Noblitt, Delores Mimms, Gretchen Luke (Ex. Officio), and Angela Wright (Secretary)

Absent: Carol Steinbach, Jerry Tandrup, and Connie Buenemann

POST PARADE MEETING

Ex-Officio Report:

- Councilwoman Gretchen Luke provided attending members with a congratulatory message from Mayor Briggs and the Bridgeton City Council members for a job well done on the parade and fireworks celebrations. She advised Special Events that there were two medic alerts along the parade route. A small discussion ensued afterward.
- Councilwoman Luke also advised that she would be meeting with Mayor Briggs the following Monday to relay all concerns and updates regarding the Special Events Commission as well as any questions/requests we have regarding the parade.
- Councilwoman Luke instructed auxiliary members to contact his/her councilperson if he/she wanted to be reappointed as an active member.
- Councilwoman Luke also reminded attending members that Chief Hood would be retiring July 31st 2021.
- Up to date city information is available via the Bridgeton Banner Newsletter and the city's website located at www.bridgetonmo.com.

New Business: - POST PARADE SUCESSSES & CHALLENGES DISCUSSION:

- Matt advised there were hardly any complaints.
- A few spectators told Special Event members they did not see gaps this year. Chief Hood (in pace car) also made a few stops along the way.
- Connie had to load more balls in the car for Fredbird since he ran out before getting to the judging station. Rick, our Bridgeton Sr. Van Driver, gave balls out to a non-council member (Bob Saettele). Plus members refreshing stock for their carts felt that the van was parked too far back. It was suggested that we place boxes of giveaways next to the judge's stand for easier access next year.
- A lot of people did not hang around for the awards ceremony. Some members think that it was because it was real hot and close to mealtime. Some thought it was due to the fact that there were no hotdogs and

New Heights Church was advertising free hotdogs. One commission member suggested that we invite New Heights to join us next year. No definite decision was made regarding this issue.

- Since Chief Hood is retiring, there was a question whether the new Chief would allow the Scouts to go first and handout flags. Matt advised that incoming Chief Mossotti advised that we could let the Scouts go ahead of the pace car in order to handout flags next year.
- Angela advised everyone that the Bridgeton City Administrator, Kevin Bookout, asked if we would host an induction reception for incoming Chief Mark Mossotti on August 4, 2021 from 6:35 – 7:00PM. All attending members agreed that our Special Events Commission would host the induction reception.
- There was a discussion regarding the Pattonville Fire Department Honor Guard wanting to be placed with their float. Special Events members attending this meeting did not see a problem with having them altogether going forward since we have Scouts that will act as our honor guard. This lead to a discussion of possibly adding the following information to entry forms: I need to be placed adjacent to (...another entry name). There were no final decisions made about this issue at this time.
- Ginger said there were beautiful houses and tents along the route. She suggested we have a contest and decide the best decorated tent/house. She will take the lead on investigating the possibility of adding this to the parade day celebration. It was suggested as a judging event prior to the parade starting.
- Manager Andy Carron and staff from McAlister's was a no show. No reason was provided.
- The judge from Maryland Heights was very nice. It was questioned if we need/should go outside of Bridgeton again to obtain a judge. Most members did not see it as being a problem and welcomed the idea of including a few people (but not majority) from area municipalities since they participate and are spectators at the parade.
- A question arose about what is the Special Event's Commission's purpose? Should we have a mission statement? There were comments about participating in special events scheduled around the city as once before with the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween. To be discussed further.
- In addition to the above conversation there were questions about the amount of active members on our commission and how many are needed. Note: A term is 2 years. Active members are allowed to serve 3 consecutive terms. Auxiliary members are not allowed to vote. However, they do not have to attend all meetings. The current active membership roster we determined is listed below. Some members are confused by his/her expiration dates. Matt and Gretchen were helping members to determine. Angela will review list provided by Stacey Mann and share with commission.
 - Ward 1 = 2 Active Members
 - Ward 2 = 0 Active Members
 - Ward 3 = 3 Active Members
 - Ward 4 = 2 Active Members
- Councilwoman Luke brought up the fact that Cindy Lay, Parks & Recreation photographer, needs transportation/golf cart in order to take pictures during the parade. It was suggested we provide a cart for her and maybe have a staff/family member would drive her around. No one took issue with this idea. However, no definite decision was made.
- There was concern about the congestion in the staging area and we should probably give people different times to arrive. No decision made at this time. However, it will be determined by next year when time to send out invitations.
- Hardly anyone attended the safety meeting. It was determined that we need these meetings. Some participants were advised they did not have to attend. Angela and Matt said they each told one unit they could be excused. The idea is to make a plan and stick with it.
- Julie advised that we need more space for cars on Bain, more time to judge all the cars (maybe start earlier), and two people to help feed cars into the procession. We will discuss further at a future meeting. Julie investigated more about judging of cars and said we should do away with the CUSTOM category and just go with HISTORIC, ANTIQUE, CLASSIC, and JOE HOOD Memorial BEST OVERALL. All are really based upon the year of the car. Angela will get with Julie to validate these categories.
- It was discussed that the group picture was very rushed and we should take the picture before decorating the carts. Everyone agreed.
- There was a discussion about lining up (staging) at the recreation center. Most members feel as though it would add to the length walkers had to walk in the heat, as well as, become a problem for big vehicles/trucks to maneuver around the sharp corner. This would have to be referred to the Mayor and Council.

- Matt announced this would be his last year serving as chairman as, he is engaged and will be building a house in Afton. However, he agreed to serve in the interim until his house is finished. He said the commission needs to also start learning more about the parade from Angela (what she does - including permits) as next year could be her last parade.
- There was a discussion regarding members being responsible and doing what they say they will do as well as helping others on other committees without overstepping boundaries. We also discussed some members taking on a little more.
- The attending Special Events members presented Matt with a thank you card and gift card. We appreciate all that he had done and his continued support.
- We began a discussion with Councilwoman Luke about possibly bringing new members on. She advised she would be meeting with Mayor Briggs and to email her suggestions and/or concerns for her to take to him. A summary of a few of the suggestions were:
 - Bring more active members on the commission. We would attempt to have representation from each ward. However, it would not have to be an even amount represented if we are not able to find people willing in certain wards.
 - Add a diverse group of people/members (different ages – hopefully a little younger?)
 - Maybe all members should be made active (with no Auxiliary - since the commission puts on the parade?)

Due to amount of time, Matt advised us of our next meeting date scheduled for 6PM Monday, September 27, 2021, We will discuss the theme for 2022 and budget.

NOTE: Each member is being challenged to finding someone interested in being a member of the Special Events Commission. We should invite that person to our September meeting so they can see what goes on/into preparing for the parade.

There was a consensus to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 as the building was closing. 😊

Next Special Events Commission meeting scheduled for 6PM Monday, September 27, 2021 at the BRC

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Wright – Secretary