



City of Independence

Minutes

Independence Days Commission Meeting Thursday, March 13, 2025

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1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chair Courtney Williams.
 2. ROLL CALL
Commissioners Present:
Courtney Williams, Myra Russell, Aaron Wimer, Lyle Gilbert, Gabby Walton, Andrea Van Heeswyk, Vidal Peña, Karin Johnson, Nathan Junior (arr 7:00pm)

Others present:
Bill Boisvert, Council Liaison
Lupita, YMCA
Neal Olson, PCFD #1 (arr. 6:55 pm via Zoom)
 3. MINUTES. The minutes of the 02-19-2025 meeting were submitted in the agenda packet.

ACTION:
Aaron moved to approve the minutes as submitted; Myra seconded. Motion passed by all commissioners present.
 4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 4.1. Coordinator/Chair. Courtney reported
 1. Talked with Roxanne of Robixy re: printing, etc.
 2. Working on sponsorships.
 3. Will be starting to meet individually with commissioners.
 - 4.2. Entertainment. Bill B reached out to Nathan; the headliner will be Jacob Weldon. Nathan: Confirmed Jacob Weldon for headliner; also confirmed Tuesday String Band. Will look into Shinkle Brothers also. Nathan will look into vocalist for the national anthem. Sound group is confirmed for next year.
 - 4.3. Talent Show. Vidal continues to work on the talent show. Still waiting to talk with Nathan regarding ideas surrounding the headlining act. Duck Derby starting at 4:00; Talent Show, 4:30-8:30 pm. Start in May for publicity (posters, postcards). Asked about sound techs; will use same as last year.
 - 4.4. Vendors. Myra noted we have 8 applications so far.
 - 4.5. Family Activities
 - 4.5.1. YMCA. Andrea reported her team will be meeting, ensure their needs, and will work with Courtney and Aaron. Courtney will have a rough draft schedule to go over.
 - 4.5.2. MI Rotary Parade. Andrea reported she talked with Sabra (MI Rotary); they will be looking into additional security for the parade along the parade route.

4.6. Volunteer Coordinator. Gabby – Servpro good for 15 volunteers. Will work with Courtney on number of volunteers needed in various areas.

4.7. Parks. Aaron reported PC Mounted Posse contacted him; looking for fundraising opportunities. Discussion; they would be good for parking. Discussion of high school groups.

- Myra - WOU still set for selling wristbands.
- Have fencing, garbage, portapotties, fireworks.

4.8. Public Safety

4.8.1. IPD. Lyle – still trying to nail down security, thinks will be CMS again. Road closures are done. Haven't talked with CERT yet; discussion. Lyle will reach out.

4.8.2. Public Safety.

Neal – no updates. On board, same as last year. Would like same location, will provide same services. Courtney talked with someone last year that would have misters; Neal will look into. Bill asked if could have fire trucks spray water on hot days. Neal thinks would be fun, but getting trucks in/out of park would not be easy.

4.9. Budget/Finance. Myra – copy of budget in packet. Talking with MINET about wifi in park; was told to talk with Jason at city. Discussion. Neal suggested looking into Starlink. Courtney asked if there was any discussion by the city regarding entry fees; none yet.

4.10. Publicity/Social Media. Courtney is gathering info for all events, will be meeting with Emmanuel.

4.11. Records/Secretary. Karin noted there will be volunteer forms to sign, sign in/out sheets, etc; keep together and turn in when event is over.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1. Other Discussion/Information Items

- on agenda for next meeting re: selling wristbands.
- Shenle Band for 7/3 confirmed.
- Bill asked if considered selling at downtown businesses. Have in the past.

5.2. Other Events

5.2.1 Mini Marathon. No report

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting declared adjourned at 7:38 pm

Next meeting: April 10th.