



City of Independence Minutes

Independence Days Ad Hoc Board Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2025

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Morton called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM

2. **Roll Call.**

Present: Chair Marilyn Morton
Board Member Bill Boisvert
Board Member Shannon Corr
Board Member Miranda Garrison
Board Member Vidal Pena

Absent: None

City Staff Present: Kenna West, City Manager
Myra Russell, City Recorder
Lyle Gilbert, Police LT
Aaron Wimer, Public Works

3. **Minutes.**

3.1. **Regular Meeting 07/07/2025.**

Action:

Councilor Boisvert moved to Approve the minutes of the 7-7-2025 regular meeting as submitted; Councilor Corr seconded. Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

Ayes: Marilyn Morton, Bill Boisvert, Shannon Corr, Miranda Garrison, Vidal Pena

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

4. **Visitors / Public Comments.** 4.1. Jake Yoakum-Independence Resident: a producer with experience in a cappella events, expressed interest in assisting with the upcoming event, offering his expertise and potential organizational support, though he clarified he could not provide financial funding.

5. **Reports / Presentations.**

6. **Unfinished Business.**

7. **New Business.**

7.1. **Extension Request Outcome.**

Ad Hoc Board was extended for 3 more months by approval of City Council.

7.2. **Future Options and Transition Discussion.**

The group discussed the future of the Independence Day Festival, with Independence expressing a desire for a community-led organization rather than city staff management. Andrea Van Heeswyk explained the possibility of creating a 501c3 organization to take over the event with the help of several of the current Independence Days commissioners. The discussion touched on potential sponsorship opportunities, including involvement from the Y, and addressed concerns about maintaining continuity and accountability in the event's leadership. The board asked Van Heeswyk to bring back a high level strategic plan. The board agreed to a timeline where Van Heeswyk will present an outline of plans to the board on September 15, followed by a full presentation to City Council on October 14.

8. **Adjournment.** Action:

Councilor Corr moved to Adjourn; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

Ayes: Marilyn Morton, Bill Boisvert, Shannon Corr, Miranda Garrison, Vidal Pena

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Chair Morton adjourned the meeting at 10:12 am.

Minutes submitted by:

Myra Russell, City Recorder