



## Labor Day Parade Advisory Board Meeting Minutes April 14, 2025

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**Board Members present:** David Diaz, Grace Shirk, KJ Whitley, Mary Chappell

**Board Members absent:** Bill Sowards, Edna Sowards

**City Staff present:** Dan Gleason

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The third meeting to discuss the **41<sup>st</sup>** annual Rock Island Labor Day parade was called to order at 4:25 pm. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center or RIFAC.

### **I. Introductions**

M. Chappell noted that Erin Gehn was not able to attend today's meeting.

### **2. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

### **3. Meeting Approvals**

Members took a moment to review the proposed calendar of meeting dates. There were conflicts with an August date. M. Chappell will revise the calendar and provide copies at the next meeting. A motion was made by G. Shirk and seconded by D. Diaz to approve the meeting dates with the changes made. Motion passed.

Also discussed was the new meeting time for board meetings. A motion was made by K. Whitley and seconded by G. Shirk to approve the new meeting time to be 4 p.m. Motion passed.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

D. Gleason confirmed the budget for the 2025 and 41<sup>st</sup> annual event was approved at \$16,750.

### **5. Review of 2024 Parade**

M. Chappell took a moment to review the list of 2024 parade items. She confirmed the final parade entry count at 137 entries with 231 units. She also reviewed the promotion schedule, adding a new logo, and the various musical groups. All agreed that having the ILLINI Marching Band present for the 40<sup>th</sup> event was very special.

A review was made of the award winners noting the special recognition given to RIHS Band Director Pete Carlin. It was noted that 2026 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> year for the RIHS marching band. Following general event comments, all agreed that the 40<sup>th</sup> annual parade was a success.

### **6. Selection of Parade Theme**

Board members took a moment to review the provided list of past parade themes. K. Whitley was kind enough to pull together some ideas for consideration. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by G. Shirk and seconded by K. Whitley to select the theme "*Rockin' the Arts*" as the 2025 parade theme. D. Gleason will develop a new post card design based on the theme to send out.

**7. Board Membership and Volunteers**

M. Chappell reminded board members that we have two openings on the board. She encouraged all to think of individuals who may want to join. In addition, we always need volunteers on parade day. Now is the time to ask for volunteer support.

**8. Misc. Items of Concern**

No items were presented.

**9. Public Comments**

No one from the public was present at the meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by G. Shirk and seconded by K. Whitley to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 5 pm.

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Respectfully submitted by Mary Chappell