



Labor Day Parade Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2025

Board Members present: David Diaz, K. Nessler, Grace Shirk, Bill Sowards, Edna Sowards, KJ Whitley, Mary Chappell

Board Members absent:

City Staff present: Dan Gleason

The seventh meeting to discuss the 41st annual Rock Island Labor Day parade was called to order at 4:30 pm. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center or RIFAC.

I. Introductions

2. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of June 23, 2025, Minutes

A motion was made by G. Shirk and seconded by K. Whitley to approve the June 23, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

D. Gleason passed out the Parade Budget Tracking sheet and confirmed no new expenses since the June 23, 2025, meeting. He did note the \$120,000 received in entries to date.

Entries to Date

D. Gleason also reported that eight entries were received since the last meeting. This brings the total entries to date to 18. Members took a moment to review the new entries.

5. Discussion Items

Board members reviewed items listed under the discussion section. The topic of dedicating the parade was first on the list. Following discussion, a motion was made by G. Shirk and seconded by K. Whitley to dedicate the #41 annual parade to Valley Construction Company, a long-time supporter of the parade, also celebrating 100 years in business. The motion passed.

Members decided to ask Mayor Smith to pass out the approximately 2,000 blue cups in this year's parade. K. Whitley mentioned she was working on the shirt order. There was discussion on changing the format of the post parade gathering.

G. Shirk asked about sponsorship fees for musical groups. She asked if sponsors wanted to pay a group more than the amount established by the board would that be allowed. Following considerable discussion, the consensus was that such a decision should be reviewed or considered by the board. Additional discussion was centered on the amount paid to university and high school bands, or marching units, currently paid \$450.00. A motion was made by G. Shirk and seconded by K. Whitley to increase the amount paid to marching groups from \$450.00 to \$550.00. The motion passed.

6. Planning #40/Staging

M. Chappell referenced the established promotional schedule for the parade. D. Gleason will move forward with sending out the reminder postcard. Members were reminded to like and share D. Gleason's fabulous Facebook posts. Communicating with the school district for site use and event update was discussed. E. Sowards was going to check to see if the Youth Services Bureau would be available for post-parade clean-up. Members were reminded to start recruiting volunteers for the event.

7. Misc. Items of Concern

E. Sowards presented the idea of increasing the amount paid to the Youth Services Bureau for post parade clean-up. The group is currently paid \$300.00. Following discussion, a motion was made by E. Sowards and seconded by B. Sowards to increase the stipend to \$400.00. The motion passed.

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. The meeting ended at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Chappell