



Labor Day Parade Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024

Board Members present: David Diaz, Kathy Garrison, Vicki Hess, Art Milton, Bill Sowards, Edna Sowards, KJ Whitley, Grace Shirk (phone), and Mary Chappell

Board Members absent:

City Staff present: Dan Gleason

The fourth meeting to discuss the **40th** annual Rock Island Labor Day parade was called to order at 12:04 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 the December 11, 2023, Minutes

A motion was made by B. Sowards and seconded by A. Milton to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

There were no updates to report.

5. Planning #40 Parade

Board members reviewed the parade theme ideas discussed at the December meeting. Following considerable discussion, a motion was made by K. Whitley and seconded by K. Garrison to adopt "*Parade of Celebrations*" as the theme for the 40th annual parade.

Participants would be encouraged to develop an entry based on any celebration (birthday, anniversary, honor, new pet, special award) or a particular attribute in Rock Island. Celebrating schools, parks, MLK Center, river, marina, botanical center, etc.

K. Whitley provided an update on the new parade logo noting that the principal at RIHS assisted with connecting with the art class that will be working on the ideas. Ideas or artwork will be submitted in mid-March for review.

M. Chappell noted that no update was available on the ILLINI Marching Band. Members reviewed attraction ideas to secure for the parade. Securing the Rocha Horses back was discussed.

A review was made of the current parade awards program. Following discussion, a motion was made by K. Whitley and seconded by A. Milton to keep the current award categories and remove the cash prize option.

M. Chappell shared details from the meeting to discuss the parade line-up and registration process held prior to the board meeting. She thanked K. Whitley, A. Milton, and D. Gleason for their time. D. Gleason noted that tweaking the current registration process and adding new procedures will be very helpful.

There was a discussion on the new shirts. Board members prefer a fabric blend of 60/40. Board members will wear collared shirts and event volunteers will wear a t-shirt.

6. Committee Membership and Volunteers

M. Chappell reminded members of the need to secure parade day volunteers and to think of individuals or groups to approach. We will need to secure support for the school street (A Section). Contacting Denkmann school principal Pat Versluis was mentioned. If the ILLINI marching band is secured, there will be a need to secure more event volunteers.

7. Misc. Items of Concern

M. Chappell took a moment to read a thoughtful thank you card from Barb Mueller.

8. Public Comments

No one from the public was present at the meeting.

9. Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by K. Whitley and seconded by K. Garrison to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 12:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Chappell