



Labor Day Parade Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2024

Board Members present: Kathy Garrison, Vicki Hess, Art Milton, KJ Whitley, Mary Chappell

Board Members absent: David Diaz, Bill Sowards, Edna Sowards, Grace Shirk

City Staff present: Dan Gleason

The fifth meeting to discuss the **40th** annual Rock Island Labor Day parade was called to order at 12:02 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 January 8, 2024, Minutes

A motion was made by K. Whitley 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

K. Whitley reported on the status of the new parade logo being created by RIHS students. Based on a recent conversation with the teacher, logo options should be ready for review at the March meeting.

M. Chappell provided an update on the Marching ILLINI Band. She referenced a meeting held in late January with Mayor Thoms, RIHS Band Director Pete Carlin, Art Milton, and Dan Gleason. On the agenda was a discussion of the costs involved with bringing the band to the event, fundraising ideas, promotion, and the logistics (staging, etc.) on parade day.

Director Carlin reviewed the Marching ILLINI schedule for the day. The Band will arrive about 9:30 am. The band will stage on 34th Street. The band will enter the parade toward the end of the line-up. After they reach the high school, they will go into the cafeteria and have lunch provided by the RIHS Band Parents. Following lunch, they will hold a stand still concert in the stadium. They will return to Champaign following the concert. Director Carlin noted that other regional high school bands may be drawn to the parade given participation of the Marching ILLINI.

A. Milton asked about how to make a general donation to the RI Labor Day Parade. D. Gleason noted that any donations received for the parade, for any reason, can be processed through the Rock Island Parks & Recreation Foundation. As a 501C3, this would allow donations to be tax deductible. M. Chappell reported that Mayor Thoms plans to contact local ILLINI supporters for donations to offset the bus transportation expense.

Members discussed the amount of flatbed bands in the parade if more local marching bands decide to participate. The need to find a new carriage provider was discussed.

6. Committee Membership and Volunteers

M. Chappell reminded members of the need to secure more volunteers for parade day – noting that a few sections need a key manager. Although the ILLINI band has their own support, there will also be a need to secure additional volunteers to support the band.

7. Misc. Items of Concern

No items were presented.

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. Garrison and seconded by V. Hess adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 12:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Chappell