



Labor Day Parade Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2024

Board Members present: David Diaz, Kathy Garrison, Vicki Hess, Art Milton, Grace Shirk, Bill Sowards, Edna Sowards, Mary Chappell

Board Members absent: KJ Whitley

City Staff present: Dan Gleason

The ninth meeting to discuss the **40th** annual Rock Island Labor Day parade was called to order at 12:03 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

A. Milton asked to add three items to the agenda under the #5 Planning Section. A motion was made by G. Shirk and seconded by B. Sowards to approve the additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of the May 13, 2024, Minutes

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

4. Treasurer's Report

D. Gleason reported there were no transactions over the past month. As for entries, he reported that the Big River Brass Band returned their entry form to participate in the parade. M. Chappell mentioned Mayor Thoms is still working to gain sponsorship support for the Marching ILLINI Band.

There was discussion regarding the early June decision that the fee to sponsor all bands in the parade is \$500. To clarify – if a band is paid \$350 to participate in the event, the cost to sponsor this band would be \$500. The difference of \$150 would be applied to the cost of paying a flatbed driver and also the cost of the sponsorship banner. D. Diaz asked how sponsors are recognized for their support. M. Chappell will send information.

5. Planning #40 Parade

M. Chappell took a moment to review the items under the Parade Planning section of the agenda. She thanked D. Gleason for assisting with the mailing of the letter and entry form to past participants. Board members were invited to attend the recognition of the logo contest winner scheduled at the June 24th City Council meeting. M. Chappell reported on a recent meeting with the Big Wheel Cyclists group out of Muscatine. E. Sowards shared there has been no response from Weinermobile about participation – yet.

A. Milton shared items on his list including arranging a meeting with the new RI-Milan School Superintendent to discuss the parade and the district's involvement. He plans to connect with the principal at Washington Junior High regarding use of the facility on parade day. He will also contact the barricade provider to review this year's order. He is concerned about where the ILLINI buses will stage after they leave Washington and will contact band director Carlin to discuss.

There was follow-up discussion regarding recognition items to show appreciation to volunteers. A parade favor to pass out on parade day, such as a sticker, pencil, or another cup, was discussed. K. Garrison agreed to research this topic and bring ideas to the next meeting. G. Shirk will assist with this effort.

M. Chappell discussed the idea of hanging a banner across 18th Ave. to promote the parade. She will be checking with the Public Work Director to see if it is possible. D. Diaz provided an update on a possible meeting with the Dynamic Status group.

6. Committee Membership and Volunteers

M. Chappell reminded board members of the need to secure volunteers for parade day.

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 G. Shirk and seconded by D. Diaz to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 1:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Chappell