



Labor Day Parade Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 15, 2023

Board Members present: David Diaz, Kathy Garrison, Vicki Hess, Art Milton, Grace Shirk, KJ Whitley, and Mary Chappell

Board Members absent: Bill Sowards, Edna Sowards

City Staff present: Dan Gleason, Sarah Hayden, and Nathan Berthoud

The second to plan the 39th annual Rock Island Labor Day parade started at 12:04 p.m. and was held at the South Rock Island Township Office Building.

I. Introductions

2. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of the April 17, 2023 Minutes

Motion was made by D. Gleason and seconded by A. Milton to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

4. Board Update

M. Chappell took a moment to officially welcome Mr. David Diaz and a new member of the City of Rock Island's Labor Day Parade Advisory Board.

5. Treasurer's Report

D. Gleason provided a quick update noting that there were changes to report.

6. Review of the 2023 Parade

Members reviewed parade planning items including the event's promotion schedule and the musical groups. D. Gleason confirmed that over 300+ businesses were mailed the Save the Date postcard. The card will also be posted to the city's Facebook page and website. The board agreed to dedicate the 2023 parade to local weather teams and to Mid-American Energy employees for their amazing work during the recent storms. Members discussed a variety of Rock Island athletes and local winning teams who should be invited to participate in the parade.

S. Hayden provided a brief update on the Citizen of the Year program. She confirmed that a committee had met to review process. In addition to changes made by Mayor Thoms, the COY Committee agreed to some categories changes:

Individual: must be a resident

Youth: grades 6-12 from RIMSD, Alleman/Jordan

Business: must be in Rock Island

City Employee: open to non-residents

Professional: must be a resident

Education: open to non-residents

Veteran: must be a resident

Organization, church or non-profit:
must be in Rock Island

She noted that the **Honorary** citizen category would be used only if there is more than one exemplary choice for a category. This person does not have to be a resident, but the organization has to be in Rock Island. The overall winner will now be called *Parade Grand Marshal* and be chosen from above categories and lead the Labor Day Parade in the first car. This person or organization must be a RI resident.

Nominations will be due by July 7. S. Hayden will send qualifying nominations the following week to Committee members for review. In late July the Committee will meet again to vote on winners. Nominees will not be interviewed as part of the selection process. Winners will be notified in early August and must be present for awards presentation at the August 28 Council meeting and available to participate in the parade on September 4. The awards presentation will be at the start of the August 28 council meeting. S. Hayden will read the categories and announce the winners. The awards will be presented by Aldermen J. Swanson and B. Healy. S. Hayden will take photos, videos and post everything on the City's website and social media the following day and send out a press release.

Comments were received from board members regarding the changes to the program. M. Chappell expressed her gratitude that the important and unique COY program created by G. Shirk will continue to recognize the important work of community embers.

M. Chappell asked if the announcers were all on board for this year parade. The answer was - **yes!** Also discussed was the idea of having decorated balloons along the route this year – and next year.

7. #40 Parade Ideas

M. Chappell reviewed the ideas mentioned regarding next year's 40th annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade. There was additional discussion regarding the development of the logo. Members liked the idea of having students develop an idea or concept and then passing it along to an artist to complete.

8. Misc. Items of Concern

There were no items of concern.

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 A. Milton and seconded by D. Diaz to adjourn. Motions passed with no objections. The meeting ended at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Chappell