

Item 24-1318: Proposed Special Event Policy - 2025

Common Council

Wed, Nov 06, 2024 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 15:40

Anyone else? All right, hearing none, we will take up the item from Safety and Licensing. This is item 24-1318, proposed special event policy 2025. We have a motion and a second to approve. Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 16:10

Thank you. I have a question. I would like to better understand with the fee schedules to rent Jones Park, lot or stage, the organizer must also rent Jones Park pavilion. So how those fee schedules are broken down? I guess this is a question maybe for Dean Gazza, but it seems a bit confusing, and I don't understand why we don't just post that the Jones Park pavilion is this cost and then double it for the lot stage. Because really the lot stage is doubling it with the combination of the pavilion, but I think that this might confuse people and lead them to think that it's actually not doubled.

Mayor Jake Woodford 17:00

Director Gazza. Okay, go ahead.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 17:05

The rental, as noted, is a special event space, and when we had considered that, we definitely gave it, you know, looked at the pros and cons of both sides of that. But we did not want both of them being used at the same time. So, the person that was renting the parking lot generally needed the pavilion because of the restroom facilities and other amenities that would be with that. So, it felt that the easiest thing and the most effective way to make sure that there went two things happening at one time, especially in a special—or to have two special events happening at the same time within the same park, was to say, if you rented one, you rented the other. Being the parking lot, you would have to rent the pavilion. If you rented the pavilion there was no need to rent the parking lot, because in that case, you may not have, may not need the parking. You may come there on bike, so to speak.

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:03

So, in other words, making it a little more a la carte for the event organizers, so that they're not carrying the unnecessary cost of the parking lot if they don't need it.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:13

Absolutely.

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:14

Okay. Thank you. Alder Meltzer?

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 18:16

Um, thank you. I guess it would make more sense to me if instead Jones part lot stage was just given the fee of, you know, \$250 a day, maybe with a parenthesis saying that, you know, this also requires—this also includes the pavilion. But I think that otherwise, you know, people are just kind of scanning through this to get information. I can see how people might be misled into thinking that they're only paying \$125 when they're actually paying \$225.

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:49
Director Gazza.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 18:50

At this point, we haven't had an issue with that. So, you know to say that it couldn't happen that someone would feel maybe that they were misled, but we do make it very clear—I think it's well stated—that if you do rent the parking lot, then you ended up renting the pavilion. So, I think no suggestion from our part was to change it from the standpoint that it's been working up to this point.

Mayor Jake Woodford 19:17

Thank you. And I'll just note that this is included in the policy document for reference, but this is, this falls under another policy, which is the Park Rental—Park Facilities Policy. So amendments to this item would not be germane to the item that's in front of council. So, if further discussion's warranted, please do connect with Director Gazza and talk through this a little bit more, and we definitely want to understand the concern, and if need be, bring something back to committee.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 19:50

Thank you. I think that this has been clarified sufficiently, and I don't intend to bring any further amendment on any part of this. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 19:58

Thank you. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 20:03

Thank you, Chair. As I spoke with you, and Clerk Lynch as well in this regard, I think we have to move this forward and see how it works out, and then tweak it as it goes along. But my concern that comes along with that is, is there a plan, then, for a review, or what is the plan? Is it staff only? Is it going to include a committee, the Safety and Licensing Committee, perhaps, or something of that sort? And at what point in time will that take place so that we can make sure that what we plan to do is what comes out in the end?

Mayor Jake Woodford 20:38

Well, I would say we can certainly bring an update back to the Safety and Licensing committee after we've had a chance to implement the policy and see how it's working. So, we can sort out with the committee chair when, when that might be appropriate. Of course, we want to give it some time to work a little bit, but I think that would be completely all right. We'd be open to a conversation with committee, just to talk about how it's going and what we're learning as we go.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 21:08

Thank you. I think that's a wise thing for us to do, because obviously we just don't know what to expect. We don't know what we don't know yet. So, I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 21:24

Okay. Further discussion? Right. We do have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes.

Mayor Jake Woodford 21:42

Motion passes 12 to one. And I'll just say, first of all, thank you to the Council for reviewing and discussing this proposal. Appreciate the work at committee and the feedback that we've received from members of the council

and also from members of the community and event organizers in shaping this policy, and as was noted during the discussion, we'll get into implementation. I know event organizers are eager to get started in discussing—especially for those events over 10,000—starting to discuss those details, and we will be getting right on that. So, appreciate the support from Council, and we'll certainly bring back updates as this policy is implemented.