

Item 25-0988: World Peace Festival Special Event Application

Safety and Licensing Committee

Wed, Aug 27, 2025 5:30PM

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:31

We'll move into our action items. The first one is 25-0988 is the World Peace Festival special event application. I will turn it over to Clerk Molitor for an explanation as to why this is at committee. It is because of the deadline for applying mainly. But what I would like to know is the memo stated that there was some approvals but not all of them. I'd like to know where we're at as of today. Thank you. Nine? Okay.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 07:02

Thank you. So, we—as of today, as of this meeting, we are only awaiting recommendation for approval from Valley Transit. We haven't received any issues from them. I think it's just a matter of timing. They haven't had a chance to review it yet. But otherwise, we have approval recommendations from all of the other departments.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:22

Okay. And just for the record, the other departments are Fire, Risk, Police, Health, and Parks and Rec.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 07:27

And the Department of Public Works.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:29

Oh, and the public works. Okay. I didn't have that written down. So, the only one pending is Valley Transit.

City Clerk Amy Molitor 07:35

Correct.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:36

Okay, all right. And the only reason this is before the committee is because of the filing deadline that wasn't met. I believe it was 25 days, and it's supposed to be 45?

City Clerk Amy Molitor 07:45

I believe that is correct.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:46

Okay, all right. Is someone here—?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:51

Oh.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:52

I'm sorry.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:52

Can can—do we need a motion?

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:52

Let's get a motion to get it on the table, but then I think there's someone here from the group that may want to speak to the application.

Aldersonperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 08:00

So, I move that we grant the appeal and grant the permit for the event.

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:06

Okay. So, approve the application, essentially. And—

Aldersonperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 08:09

I would second, but could I just ask, do we have to add something about "pending approval"?

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:16

I believe that—yes, but I believe that is part of the application, but we can add that, just to be sure. Attorney Buruin is shaking his head that we can do that.

Aldersonperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 08:25

Then I would second that.

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:27

Okay, all right, so we have a motion and a second to approve the application. Anyone from the World Peace Festival? Name and address for the record, please. Thank you.

Bedford Hines (World Peace Festival) 08:37

Bedford Hines, [XXXXXX] Appleton, and because I'm living in Appleton, I've been the applicant initially last October for this coming September, for the pavilion use in Pierce Park. At the time, we had no idea that there was also requirement for an event permit. I—we found that out only in the last 10 days, and then I rushed in to get—to fill out the application for the event, knowing that it was going to be denied initially because it was less than the 45 days. And then we went through all kinds of meetings or contact with the various people that have been referred to the committees, et cetera. And everything seems to be coming to an order, and we definitely will make sure that we'll have an event application—this is our third time, our third year of the event itself. But going forward, we'll make sure that we have an event application in.

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:37

Okay, thank you. And the process has changed. For anyone watching, the deadline is something new to the process. So, we appreciate your attention to that matter. I don't have any—personally, don't have any issue with it, as long as the departments have a—have or will approve of it. If, for some reason, there's, you know, one more that comes in that's not an approval, we would obviously be concerned about that, but I don't expect that to happen with the other departments already approving it. So, thank you. Is there anything else? Is there anyone else that would like to speak?

Bedford Hines (World Peace Festival) 10:08

[...] have questions. But no, otherwise—

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 10:10

Okay. We may have questions. We may not. Is there anyone from your team that would like to speak? No? You don't have to.

Bedford Hines (World Peace Festival) 10:17

I think, I think we're okay.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 10:18

Okay, all right, and I think we're okay on the approval, but we'll go through this here. Alder Fenton.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 10:23

Thank you. Thank you, Chair. And may I address Clerk Molitor just to clarify?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 10:27

Yes, you may.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 10:28

Clerk Molitor, it's my understanding that with the new policy, you've been reaching out to groups that have had events in the past year, and can you talk about like the reason for the delay in this time?

City Clerk Amy Molitor 10:45

Yes, so our administrative support specialist did reach out to the applicant on August 4, citing an August 7 deadline for their event. However, that's based on the date that they held their event last year, which was September 21. This year, they are holding it a week earlier on September 13. So, by the time we reached out to them, it was actually after the deadline.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 11:06

Okay. Thank you.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 11:07

Thank you. Other questions? Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 11:10

Thank you, Chair. I'm inclined to accept this, again pending all of the approvals of departmental reviews, but I am concerned that we make sure that it is known that this is not a precedent that we want to set for long periods into the future. Since we're still in this sort of first year of doing this, we're inclined to say, "We get it. You weren't informed, etc.," but we don't want to—we don't want anyone assuming that two years from now, they are just randomly late, and then they'll just assume that they're going to get an approval. So again, I'm inclined to accept this just based on these circumstances, but don't want it to be something that the public is misled into believing we would allow that in the future. Thanks.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 12:00

Okay. Other comments questions? I think we've had a couple of these, and maybe not 20 days difference, but either way. Any other comments or questions?

Bedford Hines (World Peace Festival) 12:12

Will we need to attend the Common Council meeting or not.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 12:16

This would go as a recommendation to the full city council, so you could attend. Depending on the recommendation from this committee, you may or may not want to speak, but it's completely up to you. If you

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do want to speak, you need to come a little bit early and sign up and list the item that you want to speak on. So, it's a little bit more formal than tonight.

Bedford Hines (World Peace Festival) 12:37

Okay. What time?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 12:39

6:4—oh, seven o'clock next Wednesday—right? And then I would come about 6:45 and sign up. And then when we get to public participation, the mayor will call on you to come up and speak.

Bedford Hines (World Peace Festival) 12:52

Thank you.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 12:52

Okay, thanks. All right, if there's no other comments or questions, let's go to a vote on the World Peace Festival special event application. All those in favor signify by saying, aye. Aye. All opposed? Any abstentions? Five zero.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 13:06

Okay, so this is going as a recommendation to the full council is on a five zero vote. So that usually carries a significant amount of weight, but you're encouraged to come and speak if you want to.

Bedford Hines (World Peace Festival) 13:18

Thank you.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 13:19

Yep. Thanks.