

Captioning Transcript of Parks and Sustainability Committee - August 18, 2022

"Chair Fowler"

Good afternoon. This is the regularly scheduled meeting at the parks and sustainability committee. I am Council Woman Fowler

We just have 1 item on the agenda today, and we are joined by Council Woman Holton Stewart, Councilman Bill Hollander Council Woman Parker and Council Woman Donna Purvis

In chambers, we have councilman James Peden and Council President David James.

So the 1st Item needs to be untabled It is.

Oh, Dash 103 dash 22 an ordinance amending chapter 42 of the local metro code of ordinances regarding use of public owned parks. use of public owned parks

Do I have a motion to untable and table? Motion by Councilman Peden seconded by Council Member Holton Stewart

Thank you properly properly on table. We have President James here today to speak to this.

"President James"

Thank you Madam chair. Thank you. So, this is an ordinance that I filed. Um, in order to deal with the issue of.

Metro council sponsored metro Council, a partnered events that take place in our district.

Um, and that we pay.

To be able to do that out of our ndf funds, which goes back to the general fund, which we take back to our ndf. And again, which really makes no sense to me.

And so, for example, the other thing that had caused me a lot of concern is that we often.

Will pay or be charged.

By for officers to work overtime, for some of these events, we, in fact, are the ones that put the overtime money into budget for overtime.

So, we put money into budget for overtime, and yet we're going to be charged overtime for and PD officers to be at our events.

Makes no sense to me, we're going to be charged, for example, by the parks department to rent the stage the very same stage that this council purchased.

So, we're going to purchase a stage and then use our ndf money to rent. The same stage for an event that we are going to have in the park to me, makes no sense. And so.

Um, my, um.

Belief is, is that my core belief is, is that.

Metro council should not.

Have to pay for metro council events in metro council parks.

I mean, Metro parks and so I've been talking to some of you and now I've talked to you Madam chair.

Councilman Peden, and others about maybe some amendments to this to make it more defined and more clear.

And so that's the purpose for this particular audience.

"Chair Fowler"

Thank you for that. I know that we have the OMB CEO from with us here today Monica, Harmon, and then Margaret Bosco from parks is here. Is there anything that you all have to add?

"Monica Harmon"

Yes, thank you. Monica Harmon with the office of management budget. I wanted to speak to a couple of concerns.

Uh, president James has racked that, uh, the dollars, uh.

Coming from tax tax dollars that the council's appropriated to to their. They're, uh, they're, uh, functional direction and that by just shifting this to.

The parks department to underwrite these events would would be similar. What's.

The challenge this year is that we do not have or have not provided.

Enough funding to cover these events go for the year. Uh.

Last year we put in there was a list of approximately 4,950 events, not all of those events were held, or were held in limited, uh, expenditure because of covid.

So, the additional funding that would have been increased, due to the continuation budget would have only covered a portion of this. So, there is pending what we know to be the final list.

And again, I, when I spoke last the last committee. last the last committee

We have not seen what this list of events will be. We are.

Uh, parks is a concern as is only for budgetary purposes that we don't have funding to cover these events.

And that we're also going to be, uh.

Directing efforts, both, uh, regular staff and overtime staff to cover these events, uh,

a lot of comparison has been made in conversations between the mayor's sponsored events and the council events.

And I think probably the most, the primary distinction of that is, is that there is sponsorship money that is obtained every year to cover these events and only in 2020. did was there a shortfall for. a shortfall for For those, the costs of events again.

Uh, barely attributed to, uh, so we, uh.

Well, we'll be increased.

"Chair Fowler"

Madam clerk, uh, Monica, you are cutting out utilizing towers.

"Monica Harmon"

I apologize I'm on the road, so if I am Margaret can step in and talk. Yeah. Uh.

So, continuing on, um, the, the things that the administration would like to get clarity in this ordinance.

Are to have both.

What is it true?

That is 1.

"Chair Fowler"

The MS Harmon and W, we really are not able to hear.

Like, every 3rd or 4th word I'm sorry and you're frozen right now. Okay.

Sorry.

President James, I didn't understand what you had said earlier.

"President James"

I was just letting, you know that having technical issues.

"Chair Fowler"

Okay, okay. Um.

So, is there anything that you would like to add miss.

"Margaret Brosko"

Thanks to your fellow, Margaret Brosko, um, acting director of local parks and recreation. Um, I, I think that the only other items and Monica back Monica, I think you were gonna talk about some, some.

Defining things, if you want to jump in real quick while you're there.

And then if you cut out, I'll, I'll fill in the gaps.

"Monica Harmon"

Sure. The, the primary things that we wanted to include

This ordinance does proceed, we'd like to also identify the President's office to be the designated kind of coordinator of.

Collating this list, providing that to the, uh, administration at parks so that they can include it in their budget and get that list by March 15th during the budget process. Um, and then. then

Make it clear that the council districts would.

These events be sure coordinates their permitting and scheduling with parks so that there's proper notification in advance.

Uh, Margaret, I'm going to turn it over to you to speak to anything else that you would want to add. On top of what I've coordinated here.

"Margaret Brosko"

Sure I think the only other items, um, Monica was the definition of what's considered an official metro event. Just some clarification on that would be very helpful. Um, and then, um.

Monica did mention the, the recommendation for the council President's office, um, to serve as the liaison between parks and budget. So we're all on the same page as far as that goes.

Um, the official list of of what events would be listed that just helps us from a planning standpoint. Um, as well, as from a planning standpoint, what to prepare for um.

And as Monica mentioned towards the end, um, and you all know, um, because you have awesome events in our parks, and I think that, um, Madam chair and council members is the most important thing that I want to make sure that everybody understands we want our parks activated we want events in our parks. That is a no brainer. Right? It's a great, um, for the community and it's great for the neighborhoods.

It's awesome. We just want to make sure that we're doing it.

In a way, that is the standard that we all expect. Right? Um, we want our parts to look good. We want our parts to be cleaned up. Um, we want to make sure that we have enough resources.

Um, because the same individuals that are setting up for these events and cleaning the trash, um, that takes hours after the event takes place, are also those same individuals that are cutting the grass and cleaning the bathroom. Right? So, we just want to make sure that.

We all can plan prepare and have the staffing levels that are needed to make sure that our standards remain high in the same that we're all accustomed to.

Um, and so as far as that goes, and you're all familiar with this process, that was the last item that Monica was mentioning is to make sure that.

When we're planning for a special event, the reason why we ask for at a minimum 30 days notice is because it takes time to talk through. Um. For example, newburg days right? Um, unique. Where do you want them? You need patch boxes how many and where do they need to be? And then more importantly, is that actually going to serve the needs of what you want to do at your event? Um.

So that we need to talk, kind of, through all of those things. So that's why special event requires a little bit more time. Um, if it's a situation where you're having, uh.

Uh, neighborhood meeting, um, and you need 5 extra picnic tables and 3 trash cans, right?

14 days, we can schedule it with our team and our crew and there's, there's that makes it a little bit easier for us to plan. So, I believe that was everything. Monica there, anything else that we missed.

"Monica Harmon"

I think it's important to remind everybody that, uh, while we do have enough supplies to serve a limited number of events each week and we don't have enough to do multiple events.

Uh, your availability of chairs tables, that kind of thing is limited and so if we have multiple events.

That requires rental, which will be a cost.

So all of these things add up and and so scheduling and planning are critical for Margaret's team. Uh, so that we can also, uh.

Recognizing that there are additional cost incurred as we multiply these events.

Uh, more than 1 a weekend or so that's all I wanted to add. Yeah, we have an inventory of what, um, what we actually have as far as those go.

"Margaret Brosko"

Um, and so, you know, if there were multiple events, you know, we would either have to purchase more, um, or buy more.

And again, um, you know, neither 1 is as an issue, just want to make sure that everybody's aware of that and, uh, President James thanks for your reference like, to the stage. Yeah, it's, it's paid for you're you're correct, but it's actually our electricians and carpenters.

They deliver that stage, right? So we're pulling them off of their duties to load that stage on the on the truck and get it out to the particular event and get it set up.

So those are just some of the things logistically that, that you all are aware of, but just wanted to make sure.

Um, that we communicated those publicly, we have this conversation.

"Chair Fowler"

Thank you to both President James.

"President James"

Thank you madam chair and thank you.

Monica and Margaret, both for the comments and I agree that I don't have any problem with having a specific date that that information gets turned into the President's office. So that everybody's aware.

And I understand that planning is important, but also want to recognize that we have to work with real numbers. So, the numbers of that are baked into some of those events such as with the stage.

That's not a real number because the stage again has already paid for it. So saying that it costs money to rent the stage, or that we need the budget for that. No, we don't. We already paid for the stage and so that's a fake number. And so.

And the number for the police officers.

We already put money in the budget for the police to have over time. The police.

Turn back, so that's real number either. And so.

Beth Stenberg do a lot of work on a memo with some suggested language.

For definitions that she sent out just about an hour or so ago, and I haven't had a chance to fully digested. So what I would suggest that I'm. Just next committee meeting, I want to create a committee substitute with her suggestions, built into it and then I think that we will probably be ready listening to Beth, listening to other council members and.

Margaret and Monica, their concerns to make sure that we alleviate those, but making sure that we deal with real numbers.

"Chair Fowler"

Perfect so I think that 1 of her suggestions, best suggestions was to put in.

Metro government event, and then the special events list would not be needed any longer. Correct? So, yeah, I'm happy to work on that with you Council Woman Parker

"Committee Member Purvis"

Excuse me, Madam chair, this council on purpose I just want to let, you know, that both you and President James comments were interrupted with silence. I don't know what's going on in the chambers, but I didn't.

"Chair Fowler"

Okay, okay, well, I'll repeat what I said, which was that it was suggested that we had a definition.

And, um, in the ordinance that explains what a.

Measurement would be and that would then eliminate the special events list. Are you still not hearing me Council Woman Purvis? Yes.

"Committee Member Purvis"

Uh, it's gone in and out. I don't, I don't know, it just went out again.

"Chair Fowler"

Is everybody else experiencing that? Same.

Okay, everybody else can hear it might be.

Okay, it might just be your connection council woman.

Council Woman Purvis if everybody else is hearing me councilman

Mulvihill, councilman Stewart, are you hearing us? Okay.

"Committee Member Purvis"

Okay. All right. I just want you to know that. I hear you just fine. Thank you.

Okay, I'm sorry canceling comment on that. Yes.

"Margaret Brosko"

Oh, yes, I already had 1 comment on that before we get too far down the line. Um, I would like to say, it's still would be it still would be And the reason why is, because, as we start, as we start planning, we're going to need to know how many additional employees we need to hire in order to cover the duties of of the events.

So, I would just like to say that would still be super, super helpful for us.

"Chair Fowler"

Okay, so are you talking about hiring.

"Margaret Brosko"

As in the process of hiring someone, or are you talking about temporary employees or contracting something?

I think it would depend on what that list and numbers look like. So hypothetically, if, um, the majority of the events were on the list, right that you provided us were taking place during the summer, right? When school was not in session. Um, then potentially we could hire some, some seasonal, um, to help with that but if it's banned, it's banned out, um, you know, like, over, we were having a lot of different events over the whole year.

Then we would have to.

Work with you guys with, uh, and Monica and with HR to see what makes the most sense from a budget and personnel standpoint. Um, as far as what we would need in order to, to need all those requirements.

Okay, so, but, I mean, we've got like.

A whole bunch of vacancies already, right? I mean.

We should be hiring those people anyway.

Uh, we're trying to hire people as much as possible, but again, this is a.

Okay, so let's say we couldn't hire, let's say we can't hire people, right? Because we're in the environment that we are, it's not for lack of efforts believe me right right. And so the, the, if we could hire.

Let's say whatever. Ideally, we'd like to fill our vacancies. 1st, right. That would be the 1st way that we do it if we can't because we're in the current job market, and we have to go to some alternative then here's the difficult choice.

We would have to make, do we pull a crew?

That's cutting the grass to deliver items for the event. Right? And now the grass is up to our knees or do we have to think creatively and say oh, gosh is there a contractor that we work with? Is there a seasonal that we hire?

Do we hire a temp agency? Like what's the best way to kind of manage through? And so then for us, it's just the more information we have up front, it's just gonna help us in the long term of of just coming up with different solutions. So, I appreciate that.

"Chair Fowler"

I don't think it's an issue.

Giving you a list of events from each council office I don't think that's an issue at all.

Sorry, so you can be prepared councilman Parker

"Committee Member Parker"

You forgot me I'm sorry.

"Chair Fowler"

And Council Women Parker.

That's okay. We forgot me with all the here. It's okay. I didn't forget you. I just didn't see you on my phone. Sorry it's okay. Sorry no, I thought I was muted, so okay, so I've got a couple.

Concerns, um, I kind of feel like.

1, concern is when there's not a dollar amount that people can see going. From 1 place to another, whether it's through appropriations or whatnot, it's really not very.

Transparent and.

That's 1 concern too. Some council districts will have the parties and all that kind of party type festivals job and some.

Won't have any, so that doesn't seem kind of fair. So it.

It may push other counsel people to do things that they wouldn't normally do.

And 2 or 3 I know I saw in an email from Beth.

The waved these last year.

We are 100 K and I don't think that included everything. So, would we be putting a limit on this?

Or, is there a certain dollar amount or are we just gonna let it run wild?

And 2 or 4, the, um.

The council appropriated funds for some of the park stuff, but we didn't appropriate funds for overtime.

Or police or public works, or.

Anything to that event.

And, um.

I don't know, it just seems like a good, nice way to use 3 money for each district. So.

I don't know, can we address some of these? Well, and so.

"Chair Fowler"

Do you do do you have any events in in your district.

"Committee Member Parker"

I don't do concerts. Um, I, what I used to do was I would do the shredding and I would do the, um.

Jump drop offs, but that all gets appropriated that all went through public works.

So, that didn't go through parks right?

And then, and then, you know, I do the same thing and had been doing it for years but I use these dollars for, you know, my events, which are similar. They're a public purpose.

But right, you know, so, um, let me.

"Chair Fowler"

We do a shredder. This is something that we are talking with Mr. Baldwin about because the cost of the sliders have gone up. I don't know if you were aware of that.

But, yeah, it's become an issue and, you know, we are requesting them to purchase this writer because, you know.

We could, in essence, bash with all of our collected funds, you know.

Throughout the year for that, but that's off topic.

As far as a limit, you know, when I used to do that event, I used to have to pay public works over time.

But since then, I think we've gotten it in the budget so.

Right it's public works and or swim the cost. We do, we have.

A limit on how much we have not said a lot of people we have not set a limit and I don't know I did bring that up to President. James. He didn't feel like that.

That was a good way to do things because so many of these are long standing events.

You know, maybe maybe we could limit how many events, but I don't know about a dollar amount, because some events are much bigger than others and they require.

And my question to Monica Harmon about was whether or not, you know, the, the mayor's office reimburses for coverage on any particular site.

Paddle does build the mayor's office.

"Monica Harmon"

No, they don't bill. Okay so that that's my point.

"Chair Fowler"

So we shouldn't be billed for that

"Monica Harmon"

but keep in mind that the, the mayor's events are raising sponsor funds that go into the general fund to cover.

The expenditures, but we don't build directly to it or change these costs. No, we don't.

"Chair Fowler"

Okay, but my point is that the is not charging the mayor, but L P D. is charging us.

That's my point and, you know.

"Monica Harmon's GPS"

I, I don't you turn on turn right? At the end of the road on to East town.

"Chair Fowler"

We don't know where you're going miss Harmon, but I hope you have a good time there here your GPS.

Uh, we'll get at home. I'm sorry. Oh, okay. All right. Um, but Council Woman Parker Do you see what we're.

We're going, um.

Or they're not billing the mayor's office for his events, but they're billing.

Our our council offices for.

Those events that we have, so to me either.

So, I don't know the limit, you know, I think it's something that we maybe should talk about because I did think a limit might not be a bad idea. Maybe the limit on how many events.

194 "Brown, Marissa" (1414578432)

00:27:35.099 --> 00:27:38.219

That we should sponsor in a year's time.

195 "Brown, Marissa" (1414578432)

00:27:38.219 --> 00:27:51.269

You know, and that that maybe that would cap that maybe we say there's only 4 events that we will allow that but I don't know, that's just something that we're going to have to talk about as a committee.

196 "Brown, Marissa" (1414578432)

00:27:51.269 --> 00:27:56.879

Um, I'm sorry, I don't have a better answer for you on that off the cuff.

197 "Brown, Marissa" (1414578432)

00:27:57.989 --> 00:28:08.069

Councilman are you done Council Woman Parker? I don't know if I answered your questions completely. Okay. Okay. Councilman Peden.

"Committee Member Parker"

You reiterated my concern 1 of them.

So, okay, I guess, let's just keep talking and see what we come up with. Okay.

"Vice Chair Peden"

thank you, Madam chair. Um.

Just counsel and Parker actually started to touch on the 2nd thing I wanted to mention. So I'll move it to the top of the list. And that is there are more departments where this occurs than just.

Parks and or public works, uh, the 1 that comes to mind for me, was.

Very early in my time here. Um, I held a.

Licensing and rabies shot.

Event and.

I guess they ultimately started they, the animal services charged me retail.

For the shots, I mean, it wasn't even something where they were even willing to give them to me at cost.

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Um, cause I know that, I mean, the actual inoculation costs money.

And I still don't understand why I was having to pay for the actual licensing. I mean, to me, the advantage for us is, is we now have learned that there's a dog there.

as opposed to I mean, the 8 bucks is got it if it's, I mean, or 4 bucks or whatever we charge.

And then it's up to 40 for non licensed pets and those are some of the things where I'm like.

Again, going back to what President James said earlier, when you're just moving money between governmental accounts. What's the point?

Um, the other thing that and it goes back to 1 of some of the things that that was concerned of, and it is something that absolutely has to be put in here. I mean, I'm completely for this concept and would love to vote. Yes. But right now, I'm not sure I can because.

There are, there's no real definition of what a government funded event is when President James's office ask us for what events do we put.

Ndf funds, too that are kind of annual events if if you want to.

I've got a list here that I'll just go through quick Friday fest. Have you part? 100% my office or in Council Members Flood and Fox.

Put in money for that, but if it weren't for the council office, it would not be happening as opposed to do you use parks? Any equipments? 100 held in a park?

They provide they provide the tables they provide the garbage cans I even have to text Jason. Occasionally, and say, you know, none of your guys stock that totally paper in the bathroom today. And I've got 2000 people coming tonight kind of thing. of thing

You know, little things like that, but the fact is, it's a 100 council event on 100 council property, as opposed to.

Um, on the next page over here is the fall festival, which is actually.

More like the international fest that they have down on the Belvedere.

Whereas we're just kind of paying the permitting and it's actually a neighborhood association in conjunction with value market that has put on that event for a number of years. And we have a small part of it.

Um, and then then the last 1 that's listed here is the Mini lake cleanup.

Where are we actually have volunteers come out and clean the park and somehow or another, you know, we may or may not get billed for that.

Sometimes they're there.

Last year there were no park employees at all. And other years there has been.

You know, 10 park employees, a dump truck and 2 Gators running around.

You know, I don't know exactly what we get charged directly. They've been very good about it, but I'm not even really getting into the money of it as much as I'm trying to distinguish between. What is a 100% district 23 event.

And what is is is kind of like we partner with other people, and I'll give you the, another 1 and only because I sit on appropriations is this 1 I'm, I'm, I'm questioning and.

And the district 9, the only event they have on there is the Crescent hill 4th of July celebration.

I was just there as a Senate candidate, I paid 500 dollars to be in a booth.

As did everybody else, every other booth that was there were paying a significant amount of money and yet.

What in appropriation is we refunded? 1900 dollars. We had originally appropriated.

To that festival from Bill Hollanders back to Bill's account, because the 1900 dollars.

Wasn't being spent on anything it was all being put under this umbrella of city event.

So, even though it's put on by the Christian hill neighborhood association, and other vendors and such are were sponsoring and paying money to be there.

But it's on this list here that I'm reading and again.

I'm not saying it should, or shouldn't be it was a greater neighborhood event. It, you know, it would be something I would be proud of. If we called it, a city event but I'm not sure it necessarily meets the definition of.

Wanting to be free or not, not charging the office kind of thing.

Because it's not really Councilman Hollander's

So, and it's the only 1 on there I thought he had several more because they do he's got coming up. He's got, he does lots of things up and down Frankfurt Avenue, but somehow or another, he's only got 1 on this list. And I don't quite get that either.

That's maybe he just doesn't care whether it's not. I guess he goes back to my original point and.

To reiterate or reaffirm or reinforce that's the right word reinforce. We need a definition of what before before people start calling up and, you know, local churches are calling council impedance office and saying, hey, we want to have an event in the park.

Can we put it in your name? So the permitting free? Exactly.

And stuff like that, and those are just some of the things we need to define before we go to a final vote. Okay, I agree. Councilman Mulvihill.

"Committee Member Mulvihill"

Thank you Madam chair touching on some of the same themes I think.

I mean, we have a shortage, it depends on the event, whether you need police or what do you need but.

We have a shortage of workers, period. It's across the country it's in government. It's.

Practically in all entities, so I'm a little concerned. I guess it's already been kind of raised.

Is how many events does this will this include and what does that mean?

What does that really mean? And, you know, you can have all the money you want to throw at something if you don't have the people to do it it doesn't matter about the money. So, I do think we have to be pretty cautious about.

What we're talking about here what's the expansion look like? And I know Monica mentioned a few times, but I am interested. I know there's subsidization from private private entities on some of these events. But are they fully funded he's at 100% funded on that side because.

I dare say there's probably some general fund dollars that do go towards it. So I'm not saying that it's not good to have those extra dollars, but I'm assuming there's still some government taxpayer monies that are still wrapped up into that.

But I just am concerned if this gets, uh, too expensive. And if it does won't matter, we can put all the money towards it. You can still find the people can't find the people. It doesn't matter 30 days, 60 days, 180 days. and eighty days

Found the people won't matter about getting the event done so we need to be cautious of that. And if we keep talking about issues that are important to us, like.

Public safety, and we don't have enough officers, but we probably don't want officers then.

Doing these events, even if it's overtime, cause they can be doing overtime to do things that are probably a little more important, which no offense to this, but solving grounds or making sure places are are well policed. So thank you. Those are my comments.

"Chair Fowler"

Thank you and so just, you know, I requested information from Monica about the mayor's events, and I can share that information with you.

I still did not get a full what I asked for and that was who it was on the sponsor ship list of the mayor's community special events. And how much they paid annually for the events I did get a list from 2019 to 22,000. nineteen to twenty two thousand and

To so in so, in 2019, the revenue for the bike and paddle, and this was Memorial Day and Labor Day,

the revenue was 78 and 990. seventy eight and nine hundred and ninety And the expenses on Memorial day was 3,400,533 expenses on Labor Day was 35,045 dollars. And so that was 69.

thousand forty five dollars and so that was sixty nine

And a half, you know, so so, then there's extra money left over and I haven't got the answers that I want on that.

And whether that just goes to a fund that supports these other events that come up annually, whether it's carried over annually.

I don't know the answers to those questions, but I do know that, you know.

There there may be an overlap.

So, expenses sponsorship, so, in 2019, the sponsorship total was 397,000 dollars.

25,000 from general fund that the expenses was 294 978 and so that math doesn't add up. I don't understand.

You know, but that's something that we can delve into a little deeper and try to get some answers on because, you know.

I just there is a long list of maybe 20 or 25 sponsors for special events, but I didn't get a list of how much they sponsored each year.

But, anyway, I can share that with you. This is I'm still.

"Monica Harmon"

The list I sent you this morning. There were 2 tabs. The 2nd tab indicated that sponsorships by the corporation so you might want to look at that file. I sent you the.

"Chair Fowler"

Oh, I see. Okay. Yeah, I didn't open that. My bad. Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

It's Councilman President James.

"President James"

Thank you Madam chair. I just want to address a couple things and I appreciate everybody's comments. I think they're very, very valid. Um.

As far as hiring people to do these events, these events have been going on for years. So, I don't know why we need to hire any extra people to do things that are already being done number 2.

the total for the police coverage on all of these events is 27,000 dollars. The police have never turned back in less than a 1Million dollars. So, this is really a mute conversation as far as that goes the police are the ones that require the police to be at the events.

So, all we're saying is, we're. is we're

Not charging the district account for the police to be at these events, because we already put money into the overtime account for the police to be at events, or whatever. Other thing that the chief. Deems that least need to be at. But the other thing that I wanted to say is that.

There are some events that do need definitions and I'd really think that the definitions that gets sent out will probably work for what we're talking about and I plan on including them in.

The committee substitute, thank you Madam Chair.

"Chair Fowler"

Thank you. Mr. President. So I did open that other tab. Monica. That's helpful. I'm going to share that with the committee those documents. So they'll have those to look at as well counsel women. Parker.

"Committee Member Parker"

Yes, thank you, madam Chair. 1st of all. I wanted to say that I appreciate council and mobile hill's comments about over time and and because that's 1 of the big complaints.

They had had every year is they're not doing what they're supposed to be doing, because they're stretched so thin at the mayor's events.

And so I do, I too think that that was a concern. Um, but another concern is, you know, when when you say something is free.

You know, psychologically, and what happens when people hear free runs to the draw and once you get that free money. So I can see where.

You know, we're all human beings where that could.

Kind of exponentially, um.

Implode because even though people have been doing a lot of these events year after year, and it's the same events, I think, once you put free on the price tag, then.

It's, you know, it could be a free for all.

So that's a concern within another thought I had was.

We're only talking about parks. Are there very many other events.

That take place that art done, just in part, say, like, on a major road, like a parade, or.

Something like that, because I'm just wondering if this would be better served in the budget committee. If that is the case.

Then just specifically in parks.

"Chair Fowler"

So, I know councilman Peden touched on that as well. So I think that's something that we are going to be discussing in the next 2 weeks before our next meeting.

To see, if that's something that we need to include, that it wouldn't be, I don't know if it would be in this committee if it has to do with public works. Or, like you said, on.

The maybe the spreading or something like that, but.

Your comments about free I haven't seen any comments in any of this legislation about free. What I see is a.

That it's the same.

Between the executive branch, and the legislative branch, when it comes to park events that we don't want to be charged for a stage. If we do choose to have an event in our district.

We don't want to be charged for if the mayor's not being charged for that to me, is what is fair and I, I don't I haven't seen free anywhere that, you know.

It it may be that people think. Okay well, I won't have to pay 3030 3300 dollars for patch boxes and picnic tables to be delivered to my events. So maybe I'll have an event, but that's usually not the whole cost of the event. You know, there is sponsorships, you know, like the Southwest festival.

We've got many sponsors, but, you know, I sponsor that event and I don't want to be charged for. want to be charged for

Well, the stage we used to be charged for it, but we have our own stage now, but I don't want to be charged for patch boxes. You know, if the mayor's not having to pay for patch boxes at his events.

Does that make sense? Yes.

"Committee Member Parker"

Maybe we look at the budget.

"Margaret Brosko"

Okay, yeah, I know, yes, I just wanted to address 1 thing that counsel women Parker say councilman Parker we're happy to clarify too, but there are quite a few of the events that do not happen in parks that council members request.

Items tens tables, chairs, et cetera that parks delivers and provides 2 events that are not on parks proper just and if they have if anybody has any specific questions on.

Any particular event, we're happy to answer if we, uh, if we provide items for those, thank you. Shared for that time.

"Chair Fowler"

Yeah. And so you're meaning if something happens, say, um, I, I don't know, I'm trying to think of where that might happen.

Um.

Say it happened at a church or something, and they wanted to rent.

The stage is that what you mean? So, that, for example, um.

"Margaret Brosko"

Councilwoman Purvis was having a block party.

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Um, you know, in a particular neighborhood, and she needed 25 picnic tables, um, it wouldn't necessarily be in a park, but she would request those picnic tables.

Uh, from us would be okay cool, right but that's something that.

"Chair Fowler"

And I don't know if the, I guess that would be a council sponsored event if she's having a block party, right?

Okay, correct but that's something that she she could also, um.

"Margaret Brosko"

Rent the stage if wanted, if need be if they needed a stage, right? We do get we get multiple requests like that for events and activities that are outside parks.

"Chair Fowler"

Correct. Okay, thank you. Thanks for that. Clarification.
President James,

"President James"

thank you. And I just wanted to touch back on something you had commented on. So, whether it's the patch boxes, the stage, the picnic tables. Heaters those are all things the council is already paid for it. And as it relates to the comment about the police and them being pulled off their beats to do the mayor's events yes. There was conversation about that. And so it was.
It was a concern about beats being left short.
Because they were going to go, I think the issue came up during 1 of the. Marathons, I think, and so what has happened since then, is that the on duty officers are still on duty,
and we use overtime to pay the off duty officers to come and and work. Whatever that event is that we still have the same number of people on the street and just wanted to make sure there's clarity around.

"Chair Fowler"

Thank you for that

"Margaret Brosko"

And President president James, I, I just want to say I wish we were in that situation in parks and you'd be maybe right 5 years ago, right? We may have had the staff to, to be able to, to, to cover that.
Unfortunately, we don't have extra like, standalone event staff that just does that. It's the same individuals.
And they do that, but we're happy to is, like, we navigate through this process. Um, you know, for I'll give you a perfect example, right? At the airport ample theatre parking attendance.
We can't find enough parking attendants, um, for, you know, for an amphitheater show, because it's just, you know, the, the market is the way that it is. And so, again, I mean, we're doing everything. We can to bring to bring resources and staff in to help us. But if we.
You know, if we're currently in the same situation that we are now, we do have to pull our regular parks employees in our electricians, and et cetera. Um, to help with events. Again, we want the parks activated. We want events in in the parks, but we also just want to be clear that, you know, it does have an impact, but what we can do that kind of can maybe help the process as we navigate through this.
Is let's say for an event, let's just give an example right? Let's say that.
That, um, you know, uh.
shawnee park was supposed to be cut today. Um, but we had, you know, uh, an event in California and Portland and so we had a pool, the crews to cut the grass to deliver those events.

Then, shawnee parks, grass is not gonna get cut that day. Right? And so but we're happy to, like, when we update the moving schedule, and we update, like.

Is the bathroom going to get fixed? Is the trash going to be picked up? We can we can say what was scheduled.

That that's that might be helpful. We could say this was scheduled to be done today. We pulled the crew to manage this event. And so X, Y, and Z duty was delayed til the till the next day.

Hopefully, this is not gonna happen. Right? Hopefully people, when we put out these calls for for staff and employees, hopefully, people sign up and want to become part of our team. If anybody out there is listening and need a job.

Please sign up and be part of our team. Um, but hopefully we won't get in that situation, but just wanted to to say that we're happy to do that. If you all think that that would be helpful.

"Chair Fowler"

Thank you, I failed to mention that Councilman BLACKWELL has an excused absence Council Woman Holton Stewart.

"Committee Member Holton Stewart"

Thank you Chair Woman My, my comment is just very simple. I, I believe that, um, each event, um.

Basically, um, hosts, you know, different different issues different.

Obviously. Um, some would pull in, um, manpower to move picnic tables, stages, whatever, and then other events, um.

You know, don't require any manpower. Um, for example, um, the cost was very minimal, but the summer I had a tennis camp at 1 of our parks and, um.

It did not require any, um, anyone from parks to be there. It was just using, uh, tennis courts to tennis courts actually, to be, um, completely transparent here. But, um.

District 25 was charged for the use of the tennis courts again. It was very minimal. And when, in fact, we.

Well, I was there and some of the parents whose children were participating, we actually cleaned the park. Um, because it, you know, there was there was trash there. So, um, no, no manpower from parks was required nor did I request any manpower?

Um, however, we were still charged to use those tennis courts, um, again, very minimal cost. Um, but, uh.

So, again, I'm not sure, um, where the happy balances here, um, you know, obviously some events are much larger and and, and take more manpower and take more equipment.

Um, but in a situation where there's no manpower involved, um, you know, that's another, that's something else we need to address. Uh, maybe when we revisit, um, amend this ordinance.

So just wanted to share that piece of information. Thank you.

"Chair Fowler"

Thank you, and I would suggest that if you have any more of those events coming up this calendar year, that maybe they could be added to your annual list so that you wouldn't have to.

Now, we're probably going to put in a definition, but I think we still need to provide the parks department with a list of those.

Events annually, so I think I don't have anyone else in the queue and if there's no 1 else to speak, I think we need to the table Council Peden seconded by Council Member Purvis

Thank you so, this will be tabled and brought up at our next meeting. I will send everyone on the committee. The information I received from Monica Harmon, concerning the mayors events.

So you have a good idea of how that works. I still Monica would like to know if I don't know if she's not on here anymore.

Oh, okay. I just tell we need to vote on tabling all those in favor of tabling say, I.

And I like sound on nays. There's none. So this is properly tabled for next. Um.

Meeting so again, I will send.

This information, and I'm going to be requesting some more information from.

Monica Harmon on how that works. So thank you. And we are adjourned.