

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE
JUNE 19, 2023**

PRESENT: David Ellis, Chairperson
Kyle Nicholson, Vice-Chairperson
Linda Bertges
Pam Mason
Robert Muha
Jenna Franklin
Robert Calhoun
Rehne Myers
Maria Galla
Councilman David Rubello

ABSENT: Catherine Destefano

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Mason
Jamie Victory (Parade Advisory Committee Member)
Rick Bertges
Adura Calhoun
Steven Keith, Recording Secretary

1. OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

2. ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW MEMBERS OR GUESTS, EXCUSALS

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 17, 2023, MEETING

4. PARADE AFTER-ACTION COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Ellis said the volunteer training was successful and they doubled the number of volunteers compared to last year. Mr. Ellis suggested not doing the flyovers anymore because they are expensive, the B-25 could not fly, and the C-47 flew so far away that it was difficult to see.

Ms. Myers asked how the porta-potty locations worked out this year.

Mr. Ellis said the portable restrooms worked out great this year and he received compliments on how clean they were.

Mr. Muha said he could have used a golf cart at the end where he was stationed at.

Mr. Ellis said the disaster of the morning was because the bus company refused to pick up any passengers until they got paid ahead of time.

Ms. Galla said there was more bus transportation than was needed.

Ms. Mason said most of the parade participants knew their lane and spot in line.

Mr. Calhoun said the Tuskegee Airmen were upset that a breakfast wasn't provided to them at Fishbones.

Mr. Ellis said he was in communication with their leadership before the parade, and a free breakfast was never promised.

Item 4 continued

Ms. Bertges said they could have ordered regular menu items at Fishbones.

Ms. Galla said they need to make another VIP sign for next year.

Ms. Franklin said the feedback she received was to have more clowns and more floats. She wants to be able to do online ordering and payment next year.

Ms. Bertges said she spoke to Mayor Walby and the ability for online payment needs to be worked on as soon as possible for it to have a chance to be ready for next year.

Ms. Myers suggested adding a line to the instructions that food may not be available so please ensure to eat beforehand.

Ms. Bertges suggested adding the Tuskegee Airmen to the VIP list next year.

Mr. Rubello said he thinks groups like the Tuskegee Airmen should get something to eat even if it is not from Fishbones.

Ms. Bertges said the most common criticism she heard was that the parade was too long because there were too many everyday cars that did not have a connection to the Memorial Day Parade theme.

Mr. Ellis said the gaps in the parade were a lot better this year apart from the politicians because they were shaking hands and taking pictures causing huge gaps in the parade.

5. STATUS OF INVOICES/PAYMENTS (PAM)

Ms. Mason told the committee members to give her all invoices. She said she does not have the invoice for Dave Rozema.

Mr. Rubello said Assistant City Manager Greene has it.

6. TURN IN ALL CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT WITH RECEIPTS TO PAM

7. NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS FOR THE 2024 PARADE:

a. Committee Chairperson

Motion by Ms. Mason, seconded by Ms. Bertges to nominate Mr. Ellis as Chairperson for the 2024 parade.

**AYES: All
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Destefano**

b. Deputy Chairperson

Motion by Ms. Bertges, seconded by Mr. Muha to nominate Mr. Nicholson as Deputy Chairperson for the 2024 parade.

**AYES: All
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Destefano**

c. Treasurer

Motion by Ms. Bertges, seconded by Mr. Muha to nominate Ms. Mason as treasurer for the 2024 parade.

**AYES: All
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Destefano**

8. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Mr. Rubello said Deputy Chief Brandon Davis will be accepting one of the float awards at tonight’s City Council meeting.

9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Calhoun said there is a website called Volunteer Match that can help find local volunteers. She suggested that veterans should carry the St. Clair Shores banner next year. Mr. and Ms. Calhoun are working with College Hunks to get help with setup and tear-down for the 2024 parade. Ms. Calhoun asked how many convertibles will be needed for the parade next year.

Mr. Rubello said approximately 20 convertibles.

Ms. Mason asked Ms. Galla to note that we will need more volunteers at the check-in point for next year.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Bertges, seconded by Mr. Nicholson to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

AYES: All
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Destefano

[THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A ST. CLAIR SHORES MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD]