



MINUTES
Independence Day Board
City of Huntington Beach

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
6:00PM – Regular Meeting
City Hall B-8

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kowal calls to order at 6:02PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Kowal, Ramsey, Taboada, Smith, Stevens, Moreo, Vircks

Absent: Simonds (excused), Love (excused), Van Tuyl (excused)

Contractors Present

Staff Present: Uemura

Council Liaison Present: Mayor Van Der Mark

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kowal motions, Stevens seconds

PRESENTATION:

HSS – Aaron Pai and Lee Gatlin present donation check to the Independence Day Board. The City and the Board express their sincere appreciation for the Pai and HSS Family's consistent support and contributions to the Independence Day Celebration in Huntington Beach.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Event Consultant Update

Staff Liaison Molly Uemura provides an update on Event Contractor:

- Contract will be taken to council for approval on 2/20
- Contract is currently with CAO for review.
- Contract is 5 years with 5, 1-year options
- Contractor is excited to begin work with the Board and will be present at March meeting, pending council approval.

Uemura provides Board with a high-level outline of the 2024 Event. The Contractor is mandated to deliver on the run, the parade, and the fireworks. Any other activations will be dependent on sponsorships. The Contractor will be relying on the Board for volunteer hours and assistance with connection to local sponsorships.

Board Member Reports

Nothing to report at this time from Board Members.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

2024 Theme:

Chair Kowal opens discussion. Chair Kowal suggests that we vote on Smith's earlier suggestion of "Huntington Beach through the Decades". Board is in agreement on this idea.

Kowal moves to vote, Ramsey seconds. Motion passes 7-0 with 3 absent from the meeting.

Newton states that since the theme has now been selected, HSS will be creating the logo for the 120th Independence Day celebration. Board will be presented with the logo before it is finalized. Discussion continues on the use of the logo on additional merchandise outside of the HSS booth as a fundraiser for the event.

Chair Kowal requests a conversation at a future meeting about setting up a non-profit for the Board to fundraise.

2024 Event Grand Marshals

Chair Kowal opens the discussion with the suggestion to keep all grand marshals local as we don't have any amenities/hotels to offer.

Smith brings up looking at the Grand Marshal differently, and focusing on local Huntington Beach legends, perhaps maybe a retired Fire Chief or someone with ties to the community. This could also tie in to the historical theme of the 2024 Event.

Board Members intend to brainstorm potential options and reach out to local connections prior to the March meeting. Chair Kowal requests that staff place an administrative item on the agenda for the March meeting for a potential vote on the 2024 Event grand marshals.

ITEMS TO BE AGENDIZED

Introduction of New Contractors

Subcommittees

Grand Marshal Vote

ADJOURNMENT

Stevens motions to adjourn, Ramsey seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:11PM.