September 3 2013

5:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes for the August 28, 2013 Metro and Urban Parks Ad Hoc Committee**

**Topic:** Subcommittee report on Park rules and ticketing, Promoter’s suggestions and consideration of monitoring Jaxtoberfest at Shipyards

**Location:** City Council Conference Room A, 4th Floor City Hall.

**In Attendance:** CM Bill Gulliford, CM E. Denise Lee, CM Don Redman; CM Lori Boyer; Steve Pace, EQD; Jim Bailey, DIA; Mark Hartley, Parks & Recreation; Daryl Joseph, Parks & Recreation; Paige Johnston, OGC; Mike Yokan, Promoter; Tonisha Gaines, COJ Special Events; James Richardson, COJ- EPB; Max Marbut, Daily Record; Virginia Sapp, Jacksonville University School of Nursing; Amna Ciantar, Jacksonville University School of Nursing; Sean Costigan, Council Auditors Office; Allison Adams, ECA District 5and Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

CM Dr. Johnny Gaffney had an excused absence.

The meeting was convened by CM Lee at 2:10 p.m. with CM Lee, Boyer, Redman and Gulliford in attendance. The minutes for the August 14, 2013 meeting were approved.

Promoter Mike Yokan went through his objections to the proposed park rules and ordinance. He addressed Section 3 (b) of the lease agreement saying that decibel levels would be found too restrictive to sound engineers traveling with bands.

He also voice concerns about the provision 3(f) to allow the city to “pull the plug” is there are more than five finable sound violations. He said this provision could cause crowd violence. Continued in that same section, he expressed concerns that the 3 minutes between violations provision was impractical. He wanted a 15 minutes between violations.

His next concern was the limit on the number of stages 3(g). He noted that his Welcome to Rockville event had four stages, but only two were operative at any one time. The extra stages allow for the next band to set up while another one is performing.

Section 3 (a) addressed curfew. He wanted the Sunday hours to be the same as the weekday hours (Noon to 10 p.m.)

Council Member Lee thanked Yokan for his work and contributions to the committee.

Council member Gulliford stressed that park rules need to be the same no matter the genre of music or type of entertainment.

CM Lee asked that Steve Pace and Paige Johnston go over Mr. Yokan’s suggestions and see if compromises can be worked into proposed rules and ordinance.

Council Member Boyer said Mr. Pace should address any sound level changes. She also said that Mr. Yokan’s suggestion of banning a promoter rather than pulling the plug could be thwarted by a promoter changing company names. She conceded that pulling the plug may not be the answer but there has to be consequences for continual sound violations during an event.

Richards and Pace discussed how the sound violation notification process would work. A city monitor would be stationed at the soundboard. When a violation is recorded the monitor would simply tell the Promoter’s representative (also stationed at the soundboard) there is in violation. This person would tell the sound engineer of the violation.

CM Lee noted that curfew problems arise in an outdoor venue. She said at Funkfest weather caused that show to run late. She wanted to be able to extend the curfew by 30 minutes if there is a 30 minute or more delay due to weather. Council Member Redman was concerned that a Sunday night show might go late and bother residents on a school night. CM Lee said that citizens need to work with the city as these events are money-making opportunities for the city.

Per stages, CM Boyer said she had no problem with increasing the number of stages as long as they all faced away from the river and no more than two stages were in use at any one time. She also wants a map to determine where the stages can be located.

It was agreed that in a calendar year Metropolitan Park could be used for a total of 164 entertainment hours (not counting set up and four-hours per event for sound checks).

CM Lee was upset that a boundary map has yet to be found. She charged Parks & recreation to provide the map by the next meeting.

Tonisha Gaines explained the Jaxtoberfest event at the Shipyards. She said this isnot a city event. While the promoters have a city permit, there is no city issued lease by the Office of Economic Development, which operates the Shipyards.

CM Lee was very concerned that there was no city lease for the event. She asked that CM Boyer and Jim Bailey form a subcommittee to draft a bill concerning the leasing of city property not under the purview of Parks & Recreation or the Special Events departments. It was suggested that John Sawyer in Legal be added to the committee.

It was decided that because of the nature of the music entertainment – traditional German bands – there would not be a need to do sound monitoring.

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday September 11 in Conference Room A.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

Included:

Minutes

Attendance Sheet

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Subcommittee report

Yokan’s documentation

Audio CD of meeting