

April Kirk's Comments

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Special Event Working Group Recommendations - Item F: "Walks, runs, and bicycle rides do not require a permit if they follow regular traffic laws, don't require a reserved spot on public property, and don't require road closures or traffic mitigation."

This concerns me from as both a resident and business owner. I understand your view on this is neighborhood type informal groups shouldn't need a permit, but I do see this as a big loophole that people will try to manipulate. We discussed "Critical Mass" which is a bicycling group that can attract hundreds of people. According to their Facebook they state, "Critical Mass is not an organization, it is only a global gathering of persons using the streets."

So while this does fall in the definition of those that don't need a permit, they do take over the streets, ignore light signalization, and disobey traffic laws. Their rides should require traffic mitigation.

I personally feel this entire item "F" should be removed from definitions so that people who want to host walks, runs, and bicycle rides can be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Further down page 2 of 6: "As certain events have not historically been required to obtain permits..."

What events are these? I worry this is too big of a blanket statement that should be reviewed before moved past. Again, this may have been something that was discussed in the Committee, but others are curious about that definition.

Page 3 of 6: Item B: Intermediate events are those events with a sustained attendance level under 501 with a road closure and/or music exemption, or a sustained attendance level 501 and 5,000. These events would require City Commission approval. The application deadline for these events would be 90 days for legacy events (2+ years of history in good standing) and 120 days for all others.

What is the definition of "good standing"? How is that evaluated? If 1 member of the community calls in a noise complaint does that affect this? Who is evaluating these events and reviewing them after they pass? What is the process?

Additionally, is 2 years the best length of time for a legacy event? Should an event have 3 or more years before considered "legacy"? Again, who is evaluating these events and deciding these events are being produced with the best interest of the community in mind?

Page 4 of 5: Items 4 and 5: Events on the barrier island that charge admission... and All events on the sand will be charged...

I don't what the best response to this is. I am not the producer of Tortuga or Riptide...but I don't feel that the Ordinance really addresses the impact to the beach and the feedback I received was that the

consumers don't want the burden of paying for the events on the beach but the organizers are the only ones who had a voice at the table to make sure they didn't pay this fee. I am sure this was a highly argued point but feel that it would be best to get a better cross-section of what the best solution would be.

Page 5 of 5: Item 9: If an event organizer received three citations in three years, they will need Commission approval to submit another application. It is also recommended that staff send the organizer formal notice after the second citation.

I don't feel the Ordinance addresses enforcement and staffing. I think this is beginning to touch on the residents' initial concerns but there is no long-term solution on how this actually improves what is currently happening. Who is overseeing the process? Who is watching events in action? What is the process for issuing citations? This may be a larger issue than you can address due to budget and enforcement, but my goal was to force the conversation before we just say we have an Ordinance. It is pointless to continue to make laws that we don't follow.

I do really want to clarify some things for you that my comments to the Commission were regarding the following four items:

1. The Ordinance didn't change much over the year of Committee work and focus solely on items to impact the event organizer from a permitting (or lack of) aspect.
2. The Ordinance at no time addresses the concerns that first brought this to the Commission attention. Residents were very upset about multiple street closures along the same route on the same day (ie: more than 1 street closure on Las Olas at the same time". Additionally, the concerns about beach events having multiple week set-up/break-down that blocked residents' ability to access the beach parking lot and areas of south beach. None of these areas are addressed in this Ordinance.
3. The Ordinance changes do not address the issue that once permitted, other departments aren't paying attention that there is a run street closure before they schedule a concrete pour or a landscaping street closure. This was one of the items the residents wanted to address but no solution was discussed. The lack of communication of other departments understanding that permits have been issued negatively impact event producers and their events. Events take the brunt of poor planning from other departments.
4. I am very concerned about process and making things fair and equitable. I spoke once, I asked to participate, and I spoke up again. All I wanted was a seat at the table or even the opportunity to share my opinions. I have over 20 years of nonprofit event planning with majority of that being in South Florida and Fort Lauderdale. I sit on the Board for multiple nonprofits and even served as the President for the local chapter for the international organization of Fundraisers. I used to manage the largest fundraising walk in the state of Florida. I feel I have some great insight on event production and what is possible and feasible for nonprofits and how not to impact the surrounding community. All I asked was to participate.