

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
STAFFORD CENTRE COMMITTEE
Monday, January 10, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.
Stafford Centre
10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477**

The Stafford Centre Committee met on January 10, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., in said City. The following were in attendance: Chairperson Virginia Rosas, Mayor Cecil Willis, Councilmember Wen Guerra, Susan Ricks (Director of Recreation), Rebecca Hathorn (Assistant General Manager), and Bryan Blaum (FMsquared).

1. Call meeting to order.

Chairperson Rosas called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

2. (a) Approval of the minutes of the Stafford Centre Committee:
 - Stafford Centre Committee meeting minutes December 13, 2021.

Chairperson Rosas referred to line 4 on page 4 of the minutes and asked to correct 'WG' by replacing it with "Councilmember Guerra".

- (b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

Mayor Willis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting with the correction noted. Councilmember Guerra seconded the motion, and it carried 3-0. — Councilman Guerra ✓

3. (a) Discussion of the City's Independence (4th of July) Day Celebration.

The decision on whether to hold the Celebration on one day or two days will be determined at a later time. The fireworks plan can be decided by the 4th of July Committee.

Mayor Willis gave a brief history. Ms. Ricks and her staff coordinated the 4th of July Celebration for many years. The Parade Marshal became political. She would come before Council to recommend a Parade Marshal, and certain factions started raising questions. So, the first 4th of July Committee was established. Councilmembers Wen Guerra, Ken Mathew, and Felicia Evans-Smith were the members the first year, with Councilmember Evans-Smith serving as Chair. The voting council members' only responsibility was to solicit nominations for Parade Marshal from the public and make recommendations. The process for selecting the Parade Marshal morphed after the first year. Ms. Ricks added, now the voting councilmembers on the July 4th Committee vote on all aspects of the celebration.

Chairperson Rosas asked if the 4th of July Committee helped or not. Ms. Ricks responded that it was hindering toward the end. At first, the 4th of July Committee didn't feel they had a say, because Council did their own thing. When they would meet with Council for discussion, the Committee felt they did have a say. Ms. Ricks recommends that they work together this year and maybe next to see how it goes. She needs to find out how many 4th of July Committee members can come back. The political part of the Parade Marshal needs to get out of the way. Chairperson Rosas asked if getting volunteers from the departments would help.

Mayor Willis pointed out that for other City events, such as the Spring Clean Up and Christmas, staff from all the departments participate. It's not so with the 4th of July Celebration. Ms. Ricks noted that there are staff on the 4th of July Committee, but there is no help from the other departments. Councilmember Guerra talked about the Celebration's beginning, the changes that have taken place since then, and building on it with new ideas. Also, he commented on what happened last year with Covid 19 and what could happen this 4th of July. Is there a cutoff day to cancel the Celebration? The fireworks could still happen. Regarding the Parade Marshal, previously, Council would vote from a list of candidates that Councilmembers put forth. He recommends having the Celebration at the Stafford Centre complex and food only for the Committee and/or police. The non-profit groups could locate in the Festival Field and the food trucks outside the Festival Field. He talked about making it a bigger event to attract people from other communities.

Mayor Willis agrees that we have to keep moving on; but, the 4th of July Celebration is a community event. What Councilmember Guerra talks about is a separate event. The Committee briefly talked about the use of HOT funds. Mr. Blaum asked if thought was given to having a Grand Marshal instead of a Parade Marshal. All the recognition takes place on stage and eliminates trying to figure out a parade route. Chairperson Rosas remarked that there's been a push to include the school district. In talking with the school music director, unless the route changes to include the school, it's not worth it for school kids to come. The Committee talked about the fireworks.

Chairperson Rosas asked what decisions are needed from the 4th of July Committee. Ms. Ricks responded: whether the Celebration will be one day or two days, a plan for fireworks, and a plan for the parade. Both Chairperson Rosas and Ms. Ricks were not impressed with the music last year. Ms. Ricks noted that someone new handled that last year. Chairperson Rosas asked Ms. Ricks if there is anything they can easily handle instead of the 4th of July Committee doing it. Ms. Ricks suggests that the 4th of July Committee and Council work together. Many members have left the Committee, and she will contact the remaining members about continuing to serve. Councilmember

Guerra stated that we may look at an event management company to handle everything in the future. Ms. Ricks said that it costs money.

There were no public comments.

(b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

No action was taken.

4. (a) Discussion of the HOT Funds Grant Application.

Mayor Willis said that discussion of the HOT Funds Grant Application started here and then went to Council with comments. Council also had comments, and changes were made to the Application. It was agreed this item would come back to the Stafford Centre Committee today, to SEDC in two weeks, and back to Council the first meeting in February. Mayor Willis referred to page 2 of the Application: "insert audited" was not there, and "last three years" was written in. There are some groups that are not conducting an annual certified audit because of the cost. We don't need to add certain terms and then find out there are 10 groups that qualify except that they don't have certified audits.

Mr. Blaum is not sure how the "last three years" got in there. At the last meeting, he asked about three years of audited financial statements. Art Pertile said it was not a good idea because it may exclude others, so we are just going to put "financial statements" in there. Mayor Willis responded that a numbers person said the only real deal is a "certified audit", and that is correct. Chairperson Rosas added that some companies may be new and haven't been in business three years. Mr. Blaum said we could ask for other information. The Application is straightforward. Mayor Willis added that a Post Event Report is one of five requirements. No report, no money.

This item will be on the SEDC agenda for the March 25 meeting.

No other comments related to the Application were submitted by Councilmembers. To clarify, Mr. Pertile will be asked why the "last three years" was written in on the Application.

Councilmember Guerra mentioned that a HOT guru will be making a presentation in the near future.

There were no public comments.

(b) Consideration of appropriate action on item (a).

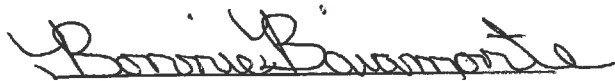
No action was taken.

5. Adjournment.

Mayor Willis made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Guerra seconded the motion, and it carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

ATTEST:


Bonnie Baiamonte
Acting City Secretary


Virginia Rosas
Committee Chairperson