

WORK SESSION—MARCH 1st, 2018

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council Work Session, held at the Huntsville Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. March 1st, 2018.

Name	Title	Status
James A. Truett	Mayor	Present
Bill Wangsgard	Council Member	Present
Max Ferre'	Council Member	Present
Bill White	Council Member	Present
Wendy McKay	Council Member	Excused
Beckki Endicott	Recording	Present
William Morris	Legal Counsel	Excused

Citizens: Rex Harris

CM McKay called the work session to address the parking situation on the 4th of July Celebration. Her committee has met and decided to change the agenda. The changes could alleviate some of the stress on the volunteers and lessen the crowd impact to residents.

CM McKay fell ill and is not present. Mayor Truett is leading the meeting with Rex Harris being asked to make a presentation regarding the parking situation on the 4th of July. Mayor Truett started the meeting by distributing the proposed 4th of July Celebration Agenda. **(See attachment #1)** He wanted to go through some of the changes the 4th of July Committee has purposed.

The 4th of July schedule starts with sirens at 6 a.m. and then the breakfast and fun run at 7 a.m. Last year the Fun Run interfered with the flag ceremony. To simplify the process of the Fun Run and Breakfast, the committee purposed that the timing and awards be simplified. They will use one big timer at the end of the race and not pay for an elaborate timing system. Instead of giving awards to each gender in every age bracket, they will give awards to the top three women and the top three men. They will do away with the 10k. Participants will pay, run, get a shirt and awards for the top three finishers in the men's and women's event.

The booths and baking contest will open at 8 a.m. Booth fees for Huntsville residents will be free. A big change from the usual events is that all booths will be closed at 9:45 a.m. for a town-wide flag ceremony. Mayor Truett explained the idea behind the flag ceremony came from an example several years ago when Steve Johnson carried the flags into the park on horseback. The park would have speakers on the four corners and everyone at the park will have the chance to stop and participate in the flag ceremony. The committee would like to see the flag brought in and start at the corners of the park. The audience could be called to attention and the crowd can participate in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem together, prior to the parade.

The parade will follow at 10 a.m. There will be a fee for business floats, \$300-500. If it is a family float, the fee will be waived.

The booths will reopen at 11 a.m. CM McKay has secured a 42-foot high water slide. The volunteer booths will only be open for three hours; from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The vendor booths will be open all day but the volunteer booths will shut down at 2 p.m.

The Patriotic Program will be moved to 2 p.m. and everyone will have the chance to participate because the booths will close.

The booth games will be "old-time" carnival games like a ring toss, go fish for little kids, dunk tank, plinko, corn hole, etc. There will also be an old-fashioned family decathlon of events that families of all ages could compete in. The events will include gunny sack races, tug o'war, 3-legged race, bobbing for apples, etc.

The proposed agenda includes all volunteer events shutting down at 2 p.m. There will be no volunteer shifts at that point. The games will be over. Guests can go home or remain but no jobs by volunteers will be running any services. Booths may remain open at their discretion and they can sell drinks. Later that evening, the hypnotist will perform and the Huntsville can have a hoe-down at 9 p.m. with fireworks at 10 p.m. There was some discussion on whether the new agenda should include the hypnotist and whether people wanted to see the tradition of the hypnotist continue.

CM White commented he feels the agenda is even bigger than last year and the idea was to tone down the celebration. All the same events are still there with additional games and the time period for the celebration is still the same. Mayor Truett felt the committee did simplify the morning process. The events were more organized and there is a lull in the celebration from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. He felt the volunteers will have more time to enjoy the celebration with their families. CM White states he feels the agenda will draw even more crowds.

Rex Harris there are more activities and the celebration is bigger. He loves all the events in the schedule, but suggested it was not simplified. By going through the committee process, his hope was the volunteers would have more time with their families and that the impact of the crowds would be lessened. The objective of making it easier on the volunteers has been accomplished with the new schedule, but feels the new schedule doesn't address the overcrowding. He also pointed out if the town charges for the parking that people will stay all day and not leave. Rex stated the morning schedule during the 5k is parking for about 300 people and by the time the parade happens, 10 to 15,000 people are in attendance. The simplification of the race is good, but it is "small potatoes" with regard to crowds. There was some discussion about the merits of a non-chipped race and whether the attendance would drop.

Max Ferre' commented he felt that we should keep this schedule for a year and see how it goes. He stated that the council wanted change and there have been good changes.

CM White commented one of the ideas that were talked about was having a cut-off to the celebration. He suggested that for a few years, the committee ought to reconsider cutting the celebration off at 2 p.m. Mayor Truett agreed that they may not have accomplished all the objectives but they had made a good effort and the schedule was improved. CM Ferre' felt

there were good changes made. Rex and CM White both stated they liked the changes but it didn't address the problems with parking and the crowds.

Rex discussed parking. Rex stated they have been working to make some improvements to the last few years. They have split the traffic coming into town, limited the traffic to the Forest Service area at the point and eliminated parking around the park during the parade. The parking has improved but the worst part about his job is getting volunteers. Some of the current issues they have are there areas of town that get backed up. People panic when they see the traffic and they just pull over and park. The walk long distances to the parade route. This results in having more parking close to the park and spreads the cars out to all areas of town and all over lawns. When one car pulls over, then another one follows and then there is a back-up. One of the problems they have is the Sheriff's department shut the road down for everyone and not just the boaters. The boaters were supposed to be re-routed, but stopping everyone and not re-routing them caused additional road blocks. The parade goers started parking in other places, and many parked on the parade route. After the parade, people didn't want to wait to leave and many drove over lawns and did lots of damage. There aren't enough volunteers to direct and constrict the flow of traffic. The volunteers for parking work until the parade is over and then there aren't many who help after the parade. With the current plan of events and the length of the day of the celebration, Rex states he will need 3 to 4 times the volunteers to make the parking plan work. Rex states with the two big events of the day, the parade and the fireworks, the crowds are book-ends to the day. The start of the day with the parade draws the crowd, the events keep them there all day, and then even more come to the fireworks at night. He states that if the fireworks were just moved to the night before, it would give time needed to clear out the crowds for the next day.

Mayor Truett commented the committee felt that having fireworks the night before would be hard to clean up for the actual 4th of July Celebration the next day. Rex responded that the point is valid but we could have a crew come in and clean up early in the morning. He asked if mitigating the firework crowds is worth a little park clean up in the morning. Rex states the benefits to that particular change would be worth it. CM White commented that he has picked up trash in the park at the crack of dawn after the 4th with his family and it really doesn't take that long, maybe an hour. He also states that most of the garbage they pick up is from the parade, lots of candy wrappers. That garbage wouldn't be there the morning after fireworks.

Rex Harris emphasized the celebration really needed a cut off time. The crowds and the parking are the biggest problem and the current agenda doesn't correct any of those problems. There was more discussion about possibly moving the fireworks to another day or the night before. Mayor Truett believes that more work could be done, but good changes are underway.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.



Beckki Endicott, Recorder

2018 4th of July Schedule

- 5:00 Parking begins:
- I am in favor of charging \$5 a car for anyone as a fundraiser for fireworks. Swiss days allows their landowners to charge for parking. Otherwise they can park along city streets but if they block traffic or driveways they get ticketed. (They also *change* \$150.00 per animal found on their town square)
- 6:00am **SIRENS** *charged*
- 7:00am **BREAKFAST & FUN RUN**
- Huntsville's Fun Run 5K and 1 Mile with a Tee shirt and you get your own personal time at the end. Fun Run; no timing chips. Just a fun race to start the 4th.
- 8:00am **BOOTHS OPEN: Huntsville Residents free booth fee**
BLUE RIBBON PIE BAKING CONTEST:
17 & UNDER BAKED GOODS CONTEST:
- 9:45am **All booths MANDATORY Close until after the Parade**
- 9:55am **F-16 FLY BY**
- 10:00am **FLAG CEREMONY:**
- MC asks for quiet for the Flag Ceremony: Patriotic Instrumental music will play. 5 mounted horsemen holding flags on a pole, will ride down each length of the park and down 2nd street to the start of the parade. They will position themselves in the center of the intersections to be seen. They will have walkie talkies and signal when they are all in position. The MC will announce: "**Will you rise and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance with me.**"
 - Following the pledge the MC will announce, "**Please join in singing our National Anthem.**" The flag in the park will go up. We will play the big instrumental track as we all sing along. At the conclusion, the horses will Canter to the front of the parade and in a row, lead off the Parade.
- 10:00am **PARADE:**
- **Entries free for Huntsville Residents.** Still want to talk about fees for businesses. Let's make a list of who actually donates and helps Huntsville Town. Just like we are moving the Melodrama to July 24th, let's talk about moving the businesses to the Huntsville Marathon... or...REQUIRING them to have a float centered around our chosen Theme and pay a hefty fee of \$300-\$500.
- 11:00am **BOOTHS REOPEN; FOOD & RETAIL**
- 42 FOOT HIGH WATER SLIDE**
- 10 CHILDREN GAMES**
- Run by the 5 sectors of Huntsville. Huntsville Town, Middlefork, Southfork,

Middleton, Valley Lake Estates. They can use the 5 churches in Huntsville to gather volunteers. Offer them to people in each sector who would like to do them for profit first, if no takers, use the people in your sectors to fill the 3 hours.

- Ring the Pop Bottle
- Go Fish for little kids
- Dunk Tank
- Ping Pong in glass dish
- PLINKO
- Throw a football through a target
- Dart Balloons
- Corn Hole
- Paint ball
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11:00am

HUNTSVILLE 'S OLD FASHIONED DECATHLON:

- Each Team will have 5 members of a family; 2 Adults, 2 children under 12, 1 teenager. Prizes will be awarded on the stage at 1:45pm.
- Games may include:
 - Gunny Sack Race
 - Cow Pie Discus
 - Greased Pole
 - Water balloon Toss with Towels
 - Tug O' War
 - Saw a Log
 - 3 legged Race
 - Cotton Ball on a Spoon Race
 - Catch a Gold Fish
 - Dress a calf or pig
 - Watermelon eating contest
 - Stick and hula hoop race
 - Bobbing for apples

2:00PM

ALL VOLUNTEER SHIFTS ARE OVER. GAMES ARE OVER.

- **Guests can go home or remain but NO jobs by volunteers will be running ANY services. Booths may remain open at their discretion. They may now sell drinks.**

2:00PM

PATRIOTIC PROGRAM AND PATRIOTIC ESSAYS IN CULTURAL HALL

8:00pm

HYPNOTIST (no volunteers needed)

9:00PM

HUNTSVILLE HOE-DOWN (No volunteers needed)

10:00PM

FIREWORKS