



CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES–SPECIAL CALLED VIRTUAL MEETING
Park Bookings Amphitheater and Lithonia Park
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Special Called Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Shameka S. Reynolds. A roll call was taken, and the following City Council Members were present: Diane Howard, Vanerriah Wynn, and Amelia Inman. Darold Honore and Yolanda Sheppard later joined the call.

II. Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 3-0.

III. Discussion

Park Bookings, Amphitheater and Lithonia Park

Mayor Reynolds indicated this past Monday everyone was briefed on the May 29 double bookings and confirmed that Annette Radford and Renee Miller were on the call.

Councilwoman Wynn asked if both park managers were aware of the park being overbooked, and if so at what time were you aware, and if in a timely manner (Ms. Radford was notified on May 4th of the double booking) what did you do after that (Ms. Radford reached out to the event organizer and informed that she would speak with the Amphitheater Manager to resolve to have both events going at the same time, did speak with Ms. Miller, proposed using the exit of the Amphitheater for entrance with assistance of Lithonia Police to facilitate) (Ms. Miller confirmed that she and Ms. Radford spoke on May 5th and identified a way to work both events on the basis of the traffic pattern).

Councilwoman Inman asked Ms. Radford for clarity that both events can take place at the same time and where would they park (Ms. Radford stated the Amphitheater holds 2,000 people, there is parking designated for the Amphitheater on the left side and the parking lot alongside the school, the park can hold 500-600 cars in the back lot, if overflow the parking behind the basketball court can be used) (Ms. Miller identified the method “click the door” and when at capacity at 2,000 will not allow patrons to enter until patrons leave) visually does not look good to have 2 events going at the same time, the road is really tight (Ms. Radford stated there will be an officer at the entrance to direct traffic in and out without interfering with the Amphitheater) (Ms. Miller feels that parking will be okay) how do you know how many patrons will attend (Ms. Miller, pre-sales are monitored currently at 900, some sales are walk-up sales, the organizer is confident there will be 2,000 patrons) (Ms. Radford indicated in the past there were 2 events going on at the same time with the Cricket Games Tournament (400-500 attendees) that was resolved without notice and feels it can be taken care of as long as certain things are put in play) (Ms. Miller stated that communication is key, for future ensure the calendar is always updated) (Ms. Radford indicated the google calendar that was established with the city to share booking dates).

Councilwoman Howard asked for clarity on the 2 events that previously occurred (Ms. Radford, patrons entered through the exit area) confident if this goes well, great to make

money on both venues, when was the Colorgasm event approved (Ms. Radford received the application from Colorgasm on April 14, provided Ms. Blount with money on May 3, received a congratulatory letter from Ms. Sands on April 5 with the save the date calendar, received calls from applicants the next day, asked Ms. Robin what the protocol was, her understanding was the dates were approved and had no idea they were not approved), Councilwoman Howard's understanding of save the date meant the dates were not approved, if this can go over without getting a lot of flak, and enough officers are in place to ensure the flow of traffic. With both events is there a way that council and mayor can access any event (Ms. Radford will provide VIP passes, she and Ms. Miller can coordinate something unique, Ms. Miller agreed).

Councilman Honore asked about the 2,500-capacity number for the Amphitheater, concurring there is no limit of people defined for entry into the Amphitheater, denoting use of the green space. Councilman Honore shared a screen shot of the map area surrounding the park and entrance/exit area, further stating when hired the standard was set for the park manager to inform council of the events being scheduled, no guidelines were changed, and Ms. Radford made the suggestion to change the protocol (Ms. Radford talked to Officer Patterson about facilitating parking and the traffic flow that will allow for the event to occur). Councilwoman Howard asked what officers were facilitated when the other double booking occurred (Ms. Radford replied Lithonia Police and her private security company).

Mayor Reynolds indicated November 2021 Colorgasm made a presentation but did not receive an approval, and learned that ticket sales started in December 2021, concurring that an approval was not made in November 2021, Councilwoman Sheppard concurred that she did not recall Colorgasm receiving approval, however her daughter purchased tickets in December 2021. Mayor Reynolds requested that City Clerk Robin provide council and mayor with the minutes from the November meeting. Ms. Witter asked for permission to speak on the history and credence of their event and stated that ticket sales did not start until February 2022, submitted application in November and placed on hold until a park manager was selected, an annual event since 2016, never received any complaints or issues of violence, commended last year by Major Patterson by having such a great event, very concerned with significance of monies that have been paid up front to host the event. Councilman Honore again expressed concern on having 2 events going on at the same time.

Councilwoman Sheppard apologized if she misspoke to Ms. Witter and expressed her appreciation for hosting such a great event in the city, concern using a one-way street for two-way traffic, a liability, does not agree with the city managing this, and there is no exit otherwise for anyone in the back of the park, council really needs to consider this, visually it does not seem efficient or safe. Are there enough officers to cover both events (Major Patterson indicated there are 2 Lithonia and 5 Dekalb officers for the amphitheater and 2 Lithonia officers for Colorgasm) per Renee Miller there are 12 officers covering the Guyana Day Event at the Amphitheater.

Mayor Reynolds asked if 2 cars could fit on the road for entry/exit access (Patterson replied, yes) Interim Chief Dejarnette will meet Mayor Reynolds at the park and determine if 2 cars can travel on the road inside the park.

Councilwoman Wynn asked if the fire department has a code requirement based on the number of attendees (Officer Patterson indicated the fire department would have involvement

for internal events).

Concluding-

Councilwoman Inman does not feel comfortable overall. Councilwoman Howard feels the exit/entrance into the park is doable for 2-way traffic and comfortable with the officers that will be in place, worth giving it a try if it's happened in the past by coincidence. Councilman Honore was experiencing phone issues. Councilwoman Wynn has concern regarding the flow of traffic in the neighborhood, however worth a try to see, and halt activity if it becomes an issue. Councilwoman Sheppard has her concerns but believes both managers will perform safely and efficiently and willing to allow both events to happen if additional support is needed asking to keep council in the loop. Major Patterson is asking that both coordinating officers of each event meet next week to ensure traffic is handled in the most efficient manner.

Councilwoman Howard motioned to approve both events to take place in the park on May 29 with the officers coming together with a master plan to ensure both events take place in a most efficient manner, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Honore abstained.

Councilwoman Inman asked for confirmation on the park rental rate (City Clerk Blount confirmed at \$200 per hour per field) is Colorgasm booked at the new rate? (City Clerk indicated the application was submitted prior to the vote of the new rate). Councilwoman Howard asked for clarity on the date when the application was submitted which appears to be on April 14 and when the application fee was changed.

Mayor Reynolds indicated there is room for 2 cars on the enter/exit road within the park.

IV. Executive Session (NONE)

V. Adjournment

Councilwoman Wynn motioned to adjourn the special called meeting, the motion was seconded by Councilman Honore, and approved by a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.