

18 August 2014

2014 FAIRHOPE CHRISTMAS PARADE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 2014

The 2014 Christmas Parade Committee met on Wednesday August 13, 2014 at the Nix Center. The following members were present: Ted Dwyer Sherry Sullivan, Paige Turberville, Gary Turner, Joe Self, Arthur Bosage, Rick Waveunek, Sheri Swartz and Steve Allen.

The committee discussed the final wrap-up minutes for the 2013 parade.

The committee discussed the potential participation of the Baldwin Pops in this year's parade. It was agreed that we need to contact them and get an indication from them as to whether they would be willing to participate again this year. Their participation was much appreciated. If they have a positive response the committee will attempt to address some of their concerns from last year such as parade position, Civic Center parking, trailer platform issues etc. Sherry and Paige will follow up with their representative.

Gary Turner requested more police support at the intersection of Summit Street and Fairhope Avenue (The Reception Point). Sheri Swartz will review this issue.

The committee agreed that we will have to "tighten up" how we handle the parade participants returning to their original start points. Due to the addition last year of Church Street being included to the assembly area, some confusion resulted amongst the participants.

There was a general agreement amongst the committee that we, the marshals, must tighten up our command and control of the parade (not the crowd). We must have some serious discussion as to what we need to additionally do and at the same time how are we going to accomplish this task.

It was noted that excessive gaps were developing in the parade. Again the committee must address the solution to this problem. It was suggested that a "scheduled" halt be planned, may be at Oak and Summit Streets. The halt might be for +/- 5 minutes. This will allow the parade to close up.

The Inclement Weather Policy was discussed. The implementation of the policy is at the discretion of the Police Chief.

Sherry Sullivan informed the Committee that horses will be no longer allowed to participate in the parade.

It was strongly urged that all correspondence to potential participants be supported via e-mail. Too many questionable situations have occurred in that people have claimed they have complied with requests and there is no written proof of such.

The Information Booth must be manned no later than 5:30 P.M. Last year, this did not happen.

The parade space markers continue to be a big plus. We must however find a way not to have the cone numbers be affected by wind or damp weather. Also, the space cones should be placed at the front of the designated spots, not to the rear.

The Committee was assured that the Fairhope Middle School band will participate this year.

When planning for the parade this year, the "twirlers" should be placed closed to the front.

It was requested that an additional marshal be placed in the vicinity of the reception area. Ted Dwyer will take care of this.

It was requested that we need more Porta Potties at the assembly areas. Sherry Sullivan will address this issue.

It was noted and requested that we need additional lighting at the start point of the parade. The utilization of generators remains an excellent idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Ted Dwyer