

City of Hudson, New York
Arts, Entertainment and Tourism Committee
November 2, 2016 Meeting
Minutes

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Rector. In attendance were Aldermen Friedman and O'Hara. Alderwoman Alexis Keith was absent.

Karen Montone Updated the committee on Warren St. Merchant Survey done following the City Bed Races held in September. Her objection was to the complete closure of the street vs. keeping parking off only one side for most Warren Street Events. Ms. Montone provided written comments from various Warren Street merchants regarding street closures and events held on Warren Street. (attached).

Alderman Friedman requested the possible consideration of a one year moratorium on all Warren Street closures. This will be brought up for later discussion.

The Committee welcomed invited guests Mark Fingar and Kirk Kneller, local area Insurance brokers to discuss the liability insurance requirements for events held on city properties and alcohol consumption. The committee thanked Alderman Friedman for his initiative with coordinating this effort. Other invited participants were Rich Volo and Holly Northrop.

It was agreed that our current law is confusing regarding alcohol sale or sale AND consumption. Additionally, a suggestion from both experts was that the city should consider going to basic general liability of one million dollars vs. stated one million for bodily injury and one hundred thousand for property damage. Chair Rector will discuss this again with the committee during the December AET meeting as to present to the legal committee a clear direction in possibly revising the law.

Mass Gathering Permit Review:

Unity Walk

"To bring unity and fellowship through a peaceful walk."

Sponsored by William Toussaint

November 19, 2016 10:30-11:00 Meeting

11:00-12:30 Walk

Walk from the waterfront park to the Courthouse (Front Street-Union-Allen)

Approximately 100 people expected to attend. No charge

Speaker and sound system at Courthouse

Alex Petraglia, representing the Hudson Opera House updated the committee on the plans for the 2016 Winter Walk scheduled for December 3, 2016. Of interest was the addition of the interactive *Unsilent Night* to this year's event.

The meeting was adjourned.

General Comments:

Parades are a "community" building experience, we would hate to see them disappear.

Perhaps consider moving parades to State or Union Streets? Just try it once?

In general the Saturday events harm my business. The people coming into town on those days are not here to shop. My regular customers stay away from Hudson on those days because they can't find parking, and have absolutely no interest in the carnival atmosphere. Nothing about these events are conducive to selling merchandise except for Winter Walk, which begins at the end of a regular Saturday. If Hudson insists on hosting things like Bed Races then have them on Columbia or Street street and leave Warren for shoppers and business.

Parades and events on a retail street are bad for business, especially in the summer, which is the retailer's best time for sales. It seems to me the City of Hudson really wants to damage the antique and other businesses – WHY?

Most shops open at Noon, to the free-up/foot traffic after the event seems to make sense for the possibility that these people would shop on Warren Street.

I'm not much bothered by Warren Street events. I'm glad that we have a vibrant Main Street that is active and entertaining.

~~the gallery manager... I would love to see your...
watching... in Hudson... except from attached~~

Even though the parades & events are sometimes an inconvenience, they do help make Hudson a unique place.

Saturday events increase bodies on the street, but decrease the number of people coming into the store.

More communication regarding events and parades would be very appreciated.

Over time, Warren Street is closed for parking & traffic more often. Business expenses are higher higher than ever. Street closure kills business. Summer parades, etc., would be better timed in the early evening at 5 or 6 PM.

Parades should be held on the Holiday they are associated with (not the nearest Saturday). Parades should be scheduled for 9AM and run to 11AM. Parking should be returned to normal for the afternoon shoppers as soon as possible. Street event permits should require a substantial number of participants in order for approval. An event with only half-a-dozen participants is not worth the disruption to the sales environment.

Parades are great & fun for the local community, but they're not "business friendly", in-so-much as it is not an event where people come to shop. Adding more "shopping friendly" events would help to even out the business lost during parade days. (excerpt from attached).