**Bridge Day Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Fayette County Commission Chambers | October 23, 2023 1:30 pm**

**Present:** PJ Stevenson, Lori Tabit, Mike Fridley, Kenny Tawes, David Williams, Lisa Strader, Marcus Ellison, Benjy Simpson III, Melanie Seiler, Mandy Wriston, Brian Dennis, Matt Diederich, Glenn Chapman, Chad Merrill, Micah Leith, Braden Petry, Luke Miller, Terry Ritterbush, Shannon Morris, Tonja McMullen, Barry Williams, Tom Dragan, Jay Young, Becky Sullivan, Megan Weatherford and Tim Naylor. Zoom attendees include Tabitha Stover, Chynna Parsons, Mike Harper and Sarah Powell Henning.

Meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm.

**BDC Representative reports:** WVSP Kenny Tawes reported a good day overall with only one ticket written and one BASE jumper with credentials revoked. This one in particular (John Bartis) will not be allowed back to the event as a BASE jumper. Also, 1st Sergeant Stone will be our new Bridge Day Commissioner in 2024.

FCSD Mike Fridley reported no problems on the north end. The race had some issues with traffic not being completely stopped and the barriers weren’t ready. Mike and Shannon have a plan to alleviate the problem with better communication. Shannon shared one issue with the scissor lift driver being late to transport it to the middle of the bridge. Driver is part of the BASE crew and has to wait for the WVSP sweep. Driver needs to be released to the north side quickly. Lunch was appreciated by all.

WVDOH David Williams reported that the event was smooth and 19 was reopened by 4:45. There were 2.1 tons of trash generated at the event.

Town of Fayetteville Matt Diederich reported some issues with the race having traffic issues at Southside Junction Tap House. Concerns that there isn’t enough room for racers, shuttle traffic and the open traffic in town. FPD Glenn Chapman reported the issue with vendors not being prepared at the BOE and Grace Baptist Church parking lots which caused them to get out of order. Also, the map incorrectly shows that buses can turn right from Hresan to Keller to 19. They can’t send buses that way to protect pedestrians. Kenny suggests the bus stop be moved to the bottom of Hresan/Keller.

Chamber Becky Sullivan would like to look at other options for parking the WV Tourism airstream on the morning of the event before the vendor lineup. Marcus says there cannot be any vehicles traveling on 19 north once the BASE crew gets out on the Bridge. There were about 30 less vehicle passes distributed. Prices and cancellation policies will be updated and revised by the Chamber of Commerce board. Race registration will need to start a little later at the Memorial Building due to the vendor lineup still happening at 7 am.

BASE Marcus Ellison reiterated that no vehicles should be on 19 north after BASE goes out. Base jumpers had 4 transports and a few minor injuries. 341 jumpers made 713 total jumps, representing 35 states and 4 countries. Tandems got delayed due to buses and traffic mishaps. The 20 year old BASE jumper who hit the water too fast was spoken to and warned.

Rappel Benjy Simpson III had 137 high line riders, 646 rappells, and 244 bridge walks. Overall, great day with limited shuttle problems. Rappel people still need access to shuttles after 1:30 to get to the bottom to help. Improvements for 2024 include using a trail instead of the hill due to muddy conditions and having 2 police officers on the south side. One pass was revoked. Media expectations on the catwalk and more information on the website regarding this media perk.

NPS Nate Frier reported good comms this year and had one issue with an alarm going off under the catwalk. Medical included 4 transports and 7 medical incidents.

Vendor/Community PJ Stevenson shared that transportation meetings are all held together when some may need to be separated. There’s confusion across the different types of transportation shuttle drivers. All vendors were off the road in time and there were no issues with selling late.

Emergency/Jan Care Chynna Parsons reported an overall good day. They would like to see unique numbers on the vendor booth areas to differentiate between North and South vendors. There was a question on who stopped jumping due to the jumper being in the tree. Discussion among Marcus, Tom with River Rescue and NPS determined that NPS will make the call to stop/resume jumping.

River Rescue Tom Dragan reported 80 pickups using 4 pickup boats and having 1 media boat.

WVDOT Luke Miller reported that there was an issue with one sign that didn’t turn on when it should have but they got it going before 7.

Active SWV 5K Melanie Seiler asked if the start time of 8:45 am should continue due to setup still happening. Mike says to continue to plan that start time. 440 racers with 274 from WV. There were 22 bikes at the valet. ASWV will reevaluate the need for the bike valet next year.

TOBD Mandy Wriston reported a good event considering the weather. Issues included traffic being backed up on Rt 19. Continue to cut online sales off on Wednesday before the event.

Chili Cook-off Tabitha Stover had a large crowd in town. They may need to look at another road closure to expand the event. Please contact Tabitha with any suggestions on timing of the event and Lori stated that Tabitha needs more support to allow a beer garden at this event.

Fayette Co 911/Tonja McMullen shared that things were changed for the Command Center to be located at the 911 Center and it went great. Two vehicles were towed and minor injuries reported.

Drone operator Jay Young flew the drone by 12:30 pm and said there were a lot of low flying aircraft in the area. Requested better communication during flight time so that he knows about shared space. There is a desire for others to fly drones and he is willing to organize multiple drone operators through permits. The content that comes out from it is incredible.

Digital Relativity Sarah reported a great day on social media. Bridge Day had almost 1.6M impressions and 138k engagements with the majority of that happening on event day. 18k website visits.

WOAY Chad says the weather was great. Micah shared that the livestream had fewer tech issues, but will look into improving it next year.

Final notes - Crosiers reported no issues and they will be picking up remaining toilets today. Suggestion for ALL emergency vehicles to have a Command pass in their windshield. Simplify vehicle passes for all those involved.

Becky moved that our next meeting be held in March of 2024. Lori seconded. Motion passed.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.