

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Chair. Martin at 7:32 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Chair. Martin, Ald. Stellato, Monken, Payleitner, Turner, Rogina, Krieger, Bessner

**Members Absent:** Carrignan, Lewis

**Others Present:** Brian Townsend, Chris Aiston, Chris Minick, Mark Koenen, Chief Lamkin, Kathy Livernois, Rita Tungare, and Acting Fire Chief Schelstreet

**3. Omnibus Vote**

None

**4. Finance Department**

**a. Recommendation to approve a Resolution Abating a Portion of the Tax Heretofore Levied for the City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois.**

**Chris Minick:** Consistent with prior City Council direction and past practices, enclosed in your packets is a resolution abating a portion of the tax levy for levied year 2012 which represents taxes to be paid by our residents and collected by the City calendar year 2013. The resolution as is structured essentially removes \$10M from the debt service portion of the property tax levy that was passed in December 2012. It is the intent of the Council and is the intent of the resolution that those principle and interest payments will be made from the general revenue stream of the City of St. Charles as we have done over the past several years. This is a long standing practice with the City Council and staff does recommend approval of the resolution as structure.

Motion by Ald. Stellato, second by Rogina to approve a Resolution Abating a Portion of the Tax Heretofore Levied for the City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois.

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays: None; Absent: Carrignan and Lewis. Chair. Martin did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

**b. Monthly Update regarding City's Financial Results for November 2012 – Information Only.**

**Chris Minick:** Next is the monthly financial report as of November 2012. The trends that we've seen in the financial performance in the four major operating funds have remained very consistent over the last several months. Our revenues are at or about the projected levels for all of the major operating funds and our expenditures continue to trend below budget and below the projections of any that were established when the budget was passed back in April 2012. As of November 30 we do anticipate that the General Fund and Electric fund would end the year with slight surpluses and we do anticipate that the Water fund and Wastewater fund will have deficits projected for the year; however those deficits that we are projecting are not as large as the initial projections of April 2012. Any questions?

**5. City Administrator Office**

- a. Recommendation to consider funding requests from the St. Charles Festival Committee and Pride of the Fox LLC and determine which entity will receive financial support for the 2013 Riverfest.**

**Brian Townsend:** This is a somewhat unusual position that we have two entities that want to organized, sponsor, and plan the same event. That has not happened during my seven years here in St. Charles or am I aware of this happening prior to my time here. I will start with a brief introduction and then go onto the proposals from the entities of which representatives are both here this evening.

The 2012 Riverfest was held in June of last year and things seem to be going along fine until September 2012 when the City was made aware that the director of the Pride of the Fox organization was resigning her position. Subsequent to that I had conversations with the president of that organization indicating they were not interested in organizing the event in subsequent years and would be taking steps to close out their organization, transfer records and other responsibilities to the City as a custodian or to some other entity that may wish to assume responsibility for the event. Subsequent to that there were some efforts made by Mayor DeWitte and Tom Anderson and other folks to reconvene or reorganize the St. Charles Festival Committee that organized the St. Charles Riverfest in 2010. Those efforts moved forward and in late December 2012 we received a funding request from the St. Charles Committee to move forward with the planning for the Riverfest event for 2013. Staff prepared that request for the consideration of the Government Operations Committee and that matter was scheduled to be considered on January 7, two weeks ago. On the Friday that the packet posted for public review, members of this committee and the Mayor received an email request from the Executive Director of Pride of the Fox indicating that she would like to continue in her role and plan and organize the event for 2013. So on January 7 there was some brief discussion by this committee and the matter was postponed to this evening. Since that time I have sent an email to both organizations that is included in your packet, indicating that they would be heard this evening by this committee. They would have an opportunity to make a presentation and I recommended they focus on certain specific areas. Materials were received from both organizations. In addition the DSCP has a new role starting in 2013 for reviewing special events that are going to be held in the downtown area and that role is granted to them pursuant to our service agreement that was approved by the City Council last year. Last week representatives of both organizations met with the DSCP.

I understand the meetings were productive and members of the partnership are here this evening to discuss that process and their thoughts as it pertains to this item and I ask that the committee reserves some time to hear from that organization as well.

The City's past support for this event has consisted primarily of two things: 1) \$18K grant or monetary contribution that has been budgeted and 2) is a 50% discount on the cost of services that are provided and that equates to approximately \$11,500; so in total the City's past financial support has been approximately \$30K. Tonight both entities are making a request for additional funding between \$12K - \$15K and they'll go into that in more detail in their presentations. With that I will answer any questions you may have and we can move forward with the presentations.

**Chrmn. Martin:** Is it your recommendation to hear the proposals of the presentations before we hear from the Downtown Partnership.

**Brian:** Yes, that is my suggestion.

**Ald. Stellato:** You sent over the DSCP service agreement that we agreed to. You told us to look at pages 9 & 12. On page 9 it specifically says that the Partnership is going to review any new events that are happening downtown. Is this considered a new event because of the separation, are we talking about all events such as the Arts Council, Chamber, they would all have to go through the Partnership? I'm confused because I thought it was just any new events that haven't already been part of our schedules for the past years.

**Brian:** There were two reasons that the Partnership was involved in this process. The first is they expressed a desire to do this because of some past concerns they heard from business owners about the impact of this event on their businesses downtown. The second is that at the last committee meeting there was some discussion from Ald. Carrigan of potentially changing the nature of this event. So in that respect we thought there may be some new things or some changes that warrant a review by the partnership in this case.

**Ald. Stellato:** So to be consistent what message are we now sending? All events go through the Partnership or just any new events? Please clarify for me.

**Brian:** This is a new process, so I don't think we've really set a precedent yet and certainly if the members of the committee have some feedback on this, the staff would be willing to consider and review it. I think as a key stakeholder in the downtown, the Partnership certainly has a representative role for the downtown community as a whole; so I think as staff we value their opinion and would like to know what they have to say. Not just about new events we propose, but if there are concerns about existing or past events we would like to understand what those are as well and make those events as beneficial as they possibly can be for not only the event sponsor in the community, as a whole, but in the downtown businesses that are going to be the most impacted.

**Ald. Stellato:** I think we should save this discussion for another day and focus on these two events because there are so many events that happen downtown that I don't believe they need to go through another layer of government. There's the marathon that's downtown that they typically come to the Council, get their approval, and it's a fairly quick process. I don't see a need for another layer. I'm not saying I don't respect the Partnership's opinion, but if you are going to tell these volunteers that they have to go through another level, I have a bit of concern about that. So I suggest that we not focus on that tonight and talk about the two presentations and go from there.

**Ald. Rogina:** The Executive Summary says \$30K or \$33K and you have articulated that in your first point and you said \$18K has been customary plus 50%, but then you said another \$12K.

**Brian:** The amounts that are listed in the Executive Summary are cash amounts that these organizations are requesting. The 50% discount on city services is not included in that amount.

**Ald. Payletinter:** I would like some clarification on Ald. Stellato's question. You're asking that today we still decide with maybe the Partnership's input as oppose to the Partnership deciding?

**Ald. Stellato:** What I'm saying is that I don't think that was the intent when we signed the agreement. The intent when we made the agreement was any new events that aren't already taking place; and I agree with that if it's something new and we don't know the impact – we should run it by the Partnership. I have no problem with that.

**Ald. Payleitner:** But it's okay to get their opinion?

**Ald. Stellato:** Where do you draw the line? You're taking a group of volunteers who want to help the City and you're asking them to go through more steps and they've already been doing it for the last several years. If we are struggling with the format of a particular event and you want to send it to the Partnership that is at our discretion, but to automatically make somebody do that every year? We are the ones who ultimately take responsibility for it so my thinking is yes, anything new I agree 100% because the Partnership manages the calendar, we talk about conflicting dates, sharing parking lots, I totally understand that, but for a group like the Fine Arts Show I don't think they need to come up unless there's a problem or unless we need some input on it.

**Ald. Payleitner:** I would like to know the members of the Partnership opinions on this.

**Ald. Stellato:** I don't remember giving that direction at the last meeting. So if that's going to be the case and you want to vote on that and we send it back I don't have a problem with that. But at the last meeting all we heard was that we were going to hear two presentations.

**Chrm. Martin:** I have one concern that since this is a considerable amount of money involved, I would of liked to have seen in the presentation a financial report of how they have done in the past and what organizations have run the festival. I would like to have seen how the money was spent in the past and would like to know how they are going to spend the \$30K this coming year. I don't see that anywhere.

**Brian:** We do have some financial records from past events and those are maintained in the Finance Department. I'm not sure if we received a report on 2012 so that maybe something we have to get from that organization before we can provide it to you.

**Chrm. Martin:** How much was contributed to them in 2012?

**Brian:** \$18K.

**Chrm. Martin:** Have both groups been advised that if they are granted \$30K they have to comply with the special events reporting that we have in place for \$25K or more and that they have to make certain reports to us?

**Brian:** I think that was discussed at the committee meeting last time and representatives from both organizations are here and were at that meeting; so hopefully they will understand that, and if not, we'll certainly make sure it's clear to them subsequent to the meeting this evening.

**Chrm. Martin:** That would certainly have an effect on how I cast my vote when the time comes. Now for the presentations.

**St. Charles Festival Committee – Joy Meierhans, Elburn, IL** – Tom Anderson apologizes for his absence this evening. I was the Executive Director for Riverfest for 20 years during the time Tom Anderson was the head of this committee and under his guidance. Back in 1990, the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce had a new executive director, Jan Rowen. She did not want to continue Riverfest which was then known as Pride of the Fox. They were looking around to find somebody to take it over. Tom Anderson knew me and my event background for years and called and asked if I would be interested in taking this over as no one else seems to want touch it – it's too complex. The Chamber had ran it for eight years. The new director felt that the Chamber needed to concentrate on Chamber business instead of on running a festival. So what followed is 20 years of successful operations as a local festival designed specifically for the people of Fox Valley. Unlike Scarecrow Festival which is designed, and rightly so, to attract people from near and far; Riverfest we were told was to be for the local people of Fox Valley.

I served as the executive director. The CEFE that is after my name stands for Certified Event and Festival Executive. It's a professional designation by the International Events and Festival Association and I have three years of experience in event production and management working for major clients around the country. You were all one of my clients for years but I also produced the St. Charles Main Street Millennium celebration on New

Year's Eve. This was a city-wide, free, alcohol free, family event that was presented with more than 20 performances in downtown location venues. Most were in-door due to it being New Year's Eve. The evening ended with thousands of St. Charles' residents watching fireworks on the bridge bringing in the new millennium. We got Main Street closed for this event. Other events I've done were in Los Angeles doing an International Equestrian show, Churchill Downs in Louisville for six years where I produced equestrian entertainment and demonstrations plus a horse village for the Kentucky Tracks' festival that brought families out to the racetrack. For Arlington National Racehorse I did a similar event. For 20 years I did a parade for the Horse Division of Chicago in the Thanksgiving Day Parade with more than 100 horses as well as this being telecast to millions of viewers.

Although the Julie Farris proposal takes credit for all current Riverfest content, in fact it was Tom Anderson's group that brought new and engaging features and activities to Riverfest and St. Charles through my involvement with festivals and events' contacts. Such as the sand sculpture that takes place in the front parking lot. I came upon that activity when I was attending the International Conventions for Festivals & Events in Miami. Also the Dragon Boat races where I learned about them when I was attending a festival in Pittsburg with the International Convention. The Cir-de-Solei face art I came across at in New Orleans again at a festival convention. During those years we also added the water ski show, Canine Keepers show, the Children Theatre, St. Charles Idol, and the St. Charles Ice Cream Eating contest, and a wide variety of very typical festival events that people just expect to have in festivals, such as, live music at two stages, the craft show, the carnival, the car show, business showcase, pony rides and petting zoo. The VIP Sponsor Tent has been part of Riverfest since the mid 90's and always provided a venue for the St. Charles' restaurants to showcase their specialties – that's nothing new.

After 20 successful years, at the City's urging after the 09 festival, the idea was to have the Partnership take over the festival. When the staff precluded it, the partnership members John Olson and Julie Farris created Pride of the Fox LLC and ran it for three years until both John and Julie quit. This fall at the invitation of Mayor DeWitte, Tom Anderson's group was again willing to step forward to run Riverfest. Please know that this was done after their resignations but before Julie Farris came forward and changed her mind and was wanting to do it again. Now you are being asked to choose between two organizations. Tom Anderson's group has advance experience and a 20-year record of financial responsibility and profitability enabling them to turn over \$30K to the Farris/Olson group. Or you can choose Julie Farris' group who has three years of experience producing Riverfest resulting in a \$15K shortfall followed by leadership resignations. The meaning of the \$15K shortfall – that's the difference of the \$30K that Tom Anderson's group turned over to them and what we are being told is the money that is left now. That gets me to city support.

We are asking for \$18K and 50% off on city services and we are also asking for a \$15K grant to make up for the shortfall between the \$30K we turned over and the \$15K that is expected to be left after Riverfest 2012. If you choose Tom Anderson's group know that we are open to the desires of the community and we welcome input by the alderman, city staff, businesses, and the residents. If the goal is to support the in town businesses as some of you

have suggested, then we propose working with the Downtown Partnership to create a month long retail promotion to drive people to the downtown stores prior to Riverfest which would culminate over Riverfest weekend.

Regarding involvement of St. Charles' restaurants, reduced vendor fees have always been offered to the restaurants, but regular restaurants are normally not set up to prepare and sell food from a tent in questionable weather. They usually don't have the usual necessary portable equipment to do that. Also the Kane County Health Department requirements are stringent, but their rigor often discourages restaurateurs from participating in outdoor festivals. To oversee this Tom Anderson is putting together a board made up of St. Charles' community stakeholders, DSCP, the Chamber, Park District, Police Department and the business community. We hope you'll agree that Tom Anderson's group is best suited to take Riverfest into the future given its event production experience and proven ability to manage this event profitably over the long haul. Thank you for this opportunity to address you and I can answer any questions you may have.

**Ald. Rogina:** What was the reasoning behind you leaving back in 09?

**Joy:** It was felt that an established organization should be in charge of Riverfest and I was fine with that.

**Julie Farris, 716 S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Pride of the Fox LLC:** I have turned in a lot of documentation. You have received a proposal from us and we turned in a business plan and marketing plan into the Partnership. General overview of Riverfest – it's generally three days and this year is the 31<sup>th</sup> Annual event, it's always the second weekend of June, and we expect between 30K – 50K attendees throughout our five venues downtown and as always they are all free to attend. We have live music, dragon boat racing, water ski show, the fantasy sand sculpture, children's entertainment, we added the Kane County S.W.A.T. demo, we have added adopt dogs, food and beverage, and the Craft show.

I would like to talk about some of the things we've done on a positive note. We provided the community with an entertaining, safe, and successful 30<sup>th</sup> birthday bash, we had over 70 businesses that participated in this event and sponsors with 58 of them being St. Charles' businesses. The Festival Guide was printed as an insert in the St. Charles' Magazine that has a distribution of 25,000 and was delivered to every home in the 60174/60175 zip codes. We also teamed up with the Kane County S.W.A.T. team which allowed the officers to demonstrate their skills in an exciting, friendly, family setting. It also allowed this under-funded team to raise awareness and funds throughout this community event. We do great with our marketing. We achieve an average of \$3M plus marketing impressions in the surrounding festival for the last two years. We also had one of our major sponsors, Comcast, produce a professional video and it was played on the ONDEMAND channel through Comcast. We built up a volunteer base of 150 residents and business owners of St. Charles to help us produce this event. We've also reduce the main stage hours on Sunday by an hour to be friendlier to the surrounding neighborhoods. We've created a Battle of the Bands competition which offers the winning group the opportunity to make

main stage every year. This is a great opportunity and our students love it. The children's stage in Lincoln Park has been revised and showcases all the best of St. Charles' talent including dance schools, our local authors, musicians, performers, magicians – everything is about St. Charles. We are also proud to support the Knights of Columbus, Boy & Girl Scouts of America, Fox Valley Robotics High School team #2949, Anderson Animal Shelter, and the Fox Valley Troop Support.

My proposal is a little different from the other group. Our group is asking you to take on a sponsorship of Riverfest. To be the title sponsor of this event, the event would be presented by the City and you actually receive a benefits package for this. So instead of just asking for money, we are actually showing you what we are going to do with your money and how it's going to benefit you. You'll see top recognition on everything we do, all media sources, print, TV, radio and also it will be on our website. You'll have banner recognition throughout downtown. You have a package that shows everything you'll receive as a presenting sponsor. It goes through all the benefits and it shows what you'll provide as a presenting sponsor also. We've found since we've done that the community festivals unite our residents. They're a central meeting place, people enjoy them, it's a chance to get together to showcase the best of St. Charles. Pride of the Fox is a non-for-profit organization that provides St. Charles residents and visitors family style entertainment by producing and promoting festivals and city-wide celebrations. It takes a community to do any fest regardless of the size or venue. We have 150 volunteers that produce Riverfest each year that are made up of residents, business owners, and fans of St. Charles; and we work for ten months to produce this festival. We also include hundreds of St. Charles students and they're impacted financially by participating in our events. The scout groups that we help take those funds we raise directly back to their students to help them.

A lot has been discussed about experience. We do not necessarily have experience with events all over the world, but I do have a lot of experience in St. Charles and so does our team because we are St. Charles. There isn't any event in St. Charles that our team hasn't been part of through volunteering or running. We had a good impact with Sisters' Weekend and last year's St. Patrick's Day Parade we had a wedding join in and be part of that. Anderson Animal Shelter supports our community with the animals and I've been a part of their organization for a number of years as a volunteer and last year we produced the largest grossing event to date that have made over \$100,000 proceeds for the annual gala.

Our board members are not a who's who of the community; it is a representation of our community. We have residents, city and business representation, but mostly we have residents. This is the residents' fest. We have volunteers who range from 8 to 70 years of age. They represent every person in our community. Our skills set includes event planning, project management, financial, and marketing along with many other business specialties.

There have been a couple of notes and issues that I've heard and would like to address those now. The main one is why I resigned which has been asked over and over again. As you know Pride of the Fox was created by two people who have devoted many hours to this community. We created Pride of the Fox to ensure that Riverfest would continue and would

turn back to the community fest that it once was. Since that time we have had the opportunity to produce three successful Riverfests. Our team has grown both in numbers and experience. We have learned first-hand how hard it is to produce a community event. We've also had the unique opportunity to work with residents on what they wanted to see at their festival. As our team grew we broaden our goals and visions. One vision was to see one group in St. Charles to produce/oversee the events that happen here. We saw the advantages to our sponsors and savings to our vendors if we could offer a yearly comprehensive sponsorship package. This vision came true last year, but with the DSCP becoming the event overseers of events in downtown. After a proposed merger with Pride of the Fox and the DSCP which did not occur, I made the decision to step down as the executive director of Pride of the Fox. This decision was not made lightly. I love this event and anyone who speaks with any one of the 150 members knows how much we love this event. I have a strong track record of public service to this community and I decided to accept your decision that DSCP produce the event and supported that and made the decision to step down. When it came apparent that the DSCP was not going to produce the festival, residents and volunteers from Pride of the Fox started approaching me and asking me to not let all of the hard work that we've done be undone. Through numerous conversations I made the decision to ask Council to continue to support our team and vision of producing the community festival.

One other issue are the financials and I would like to address this as well. I have notice that the other event group has focused on the funds that Pride of the Fox has spent from the Reserve fund since we have taken over the event. Also the co-creator of Pride of the Fox, current board president and St. Charles business owner, John Olson, is here this evening and would be happy to address any further questions about the financials if I am not able to. Mr. Martin to answer your comment earlier, I actually have our financials here with me. We do turn them into the City and they were a part of my business plan prepared for the DSCP and would be happy to share them with everyone this evening.

We took over Riverfest at the same time as the economic downturn happened in our country. We had the luck to take over Riverfest in 2010. The economy and the late start of planning our festival affected our sponsorships dollars in 2010. Since then we've increased our sponsorship dollars each year with 2012 ending in \$43K in sponsorship and over \$100K in trade outs. Our first two years of producing Riverfest we also encountered terrible weather – we had torrential rains the first two years we took on this event. We work closely with the St. Charles Police Department to ensure everyone's safety. All venues were affected. The main stage was closed numerous times and our vendors lost booths and attendees stayed home. We also came across some new and unknown expenses. Upon review of the festival insurance policies it was noticed that there were major gaps in coverage. Working with a St. Charles insurance agent who volunteers for our organization, we were able to close those gaps and now have proper coverage for all attendees, volunteers, board members and officers, and all the venue locations. We've also had additional policy increases due to an absence from the year before we took over the production event. We have also incurred additional expenses in taxes, electricity, public and safety, and tent rentals. As we grew our costs went up.

Another reason that affected our money is when we took this over we made a conscience choice to increase the price of alcoholic beverages at the main stage. It was our hope that it would decrease the amount each person would drink along with the rash of incidents that occur every year at the main stage throughout Riverfest. It wasn't a popular decision. John and I had to fight our committee and every single year they brought it up that they want the beer cost to go back down because people wanted lower cost beer. We knew the proof was in the results. We, since we started producing this event, have had no issues at our main stage or any other venues of Riverfest. It has been incident free. We take pride in that because we work very strongly with the St. Charles Police Department. Lt. Mahan is on our board and we meet with him regularly. We started for the first time having mandatory alcohol meetings between the PD and Pride of the Fox team one week before the event. This way all parties could discuss incidents in the past, we could talk about ways to improve, and we could just have open dialect between both groups so that before the event we could have a sense of all being on the same team.

Residents have been more receptive to the increase in the beer charges at the main stage because we've seen an increase of children at the stage and that hasn't happened before. We also take great pride in knowing that this is now the community fest instead of the representation we inherited which was beer fest.

Pride of the Fox is the most logical group to produce Riverfest because we produced the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it was a success. We showcased our residents and St. Charles at every venue. We have years of combined talents and skills on our team to produce Riverfest. We also have a proven track record of marketing our community to the media. We know our community. This includes our residents and businesses downtown. We work with everyone to use the festival to their advantage; whether it's a resident that wants to host a new event or whether it's someone who wants to be in the talent show, or working with a business to showcase them to attendees; we work with everyone because we are St. Charles. We are the residents. We care what happens in this community. We know that if we place a business across from a competitive business of St. Charles, we are going to answer to that because chances are the business owner is one of our friends or church members, or shops at the Blue Goose and we're going to see them and they're going to let us know.

I respectfully ask that you support Pride of the Fox and our 150 member team. It is the residents of this community and business owners. We've banded together to make a difference. We are not in this for fame. We do think we're nuts to come back for a second time. We truly care about this event and this community. We want to make sure that this event continues to showcase the best of St. Charles.

**Ald. Bessner:** Could you talk about the timeline that we are up against right now in general terms of what you're going to have do; whether it's your group of Joy's group?

**Julie:** Absolutely, I think for once I can speak for Joy and myself. We are up against a crazy timeline. It's going to be a lot of hard work and take a lot of people coming together

and working very hard to pull off a successful event that showcases all of us. It's doable. It's getting close and getting tight crunch time, but it's doable. Our plans are in place, we have our project teams in place with how many hours and we are ready to take on the challenge.

**Ald. Bessner:** I had the opportunity to sit on both boards over the last five/six years and I do want to see Pride of the Fox Riverfest succeed as we move forward. Some concerns, and they were outlaid tonight in both presentations, is that this festival has been kind of flip-flopped back and forth between the Partnership, past board team with Joy and Tom Anderson, and back to Julie Farris' team; I don't see any need for this being flip-flopped back and forth. We are looking at a festival that over the last three years culminated to a point last year to 45,000 folks that came whether they lived in St. Charles or came here. My main concern is to move forward with a model of success that's been in place and at the same point with the critical timeline that we are up against to move forward and get this festival rolling. It's unusual to have two groups tonight, but at the same time I feel it's a great opportunity to have two groups vying for this festival tonight; but my goal is to make sure that this festival runs smoothly and successful.

**Ald. Payleitner:** Did the other group approach you on doing this when they decided to come forward?

**Julie:** Tom Anderson and Joy? No they did not. We were under the assumption that the DSCP was running this event.

**Ald. Payleitner:** Why did you have this assumption?

**Julie:** That's what we were told. We were asked to merge with them, but it just didn't work. I did have talks with them and it wasn't doable. So when the vote came that they were to oversee this event and the St. Patrick's Day Parade, our understanding was they were chose to do that. Again we would support the DSCP and step down. John Olson and I came from the Partnership.

**Ald. Payleitner:** So why isn't the Partnership doing it?

**Julie:** You would have to ask them that question. The first time in 2010 we had just gone through a change in staffing and the new director didn't feel that this what she wanted to do at that time. We already committed to the Mayor that we were to take on the event, so John Olson and I stepped up and created Pride of the Fox with a group of volunteers and residents from the community. In 2012 we were asked to merge with the Partnership.

**Ald. Payleitner:** I would just like to know what happened here?

**Ald. Monken:** You said you actually discussed with the Anderson group the possibility of merging your efforts together on this?

**Julie:** No, with the DSCP.

**Ald. Monken:** Since we're all doing this for the community and are nonprofit groups, why wouldn't we merge together and do this as one committee?

**Julie:** We would actually welcome anyone to join our group.

**Ald. Monken:** If you took all the experience from both entities and put it together it would be quite a festival. Not that it hasn't been already, but what are the reasons that you couldn't do that. I'm asking that of both parties.

**Julie:** Having two directors, having two salaries.

**Joy:** Somebody has to be in charge. It's an interesting idea. I truly don't think it works too well for either group. Someone has to be the boss.

**Mayor DeWitte:** This is to the partnership. Was there a merger proposed between Julie's group and the partnership; or did that potential relationship take another form on.

**Lynn Schwartz:** We had conversations with Julie and we had several proposals we were offering to taking on this event. One was to be an employee of Downtown St. Charles Partnership and have sole responsibility to run this event. The second option would be for her to be a consultant. She would not be working for us but we would hire her on as a consultant for this event.

Motion by Ald. Bessner second by Stellato to approve for Pride of the Fox LLC for 2013 Riverfest in the amount of \$30K.

**Ald. Payleitner:** I thought we were going to hear something from the Partnership?

**Chrmn. Martin:** They are welcome to speak if they wish. I've asked three times if there are any other comments. John would you care to address the committee?

**John Olson:** Not unless the committee has any other questions.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Stellato, Monken, Payleitner, Turner, Rogina, Krieger, Bessner; Nays: None, Absent: Carrigan and Lewis. Chair. Martin did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

**Chrmn. Martin:** Pride of the Fox will lead us in the Riverfest event. I hope you will consult with the other group and try to get things put together so that we don't have to face this next year.

## **6. Executive Session**

- Personnel
- Pending Litigation

- Probable or Imminent Litigation
- Property Acquisition
- Collective Bargaining
- Review of Minutes of Executive Sessions

7. **Additional Items** - None

8. **Adjournment**

Motion by Stellato second by Monken to adjourn meeting at 8:25 p.m.

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays: None; Absent: Carrignan and Lewis. Chair. Martin did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

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