

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Planning & Development
January 19, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Floor Council Conference Room – City Hall

--Minutes--

Present: Chair, Councilor Joseph Ciolino; Vice Chair, Councilor Robert Whycott; Councilor Greg Verga

Absent: None.

Also Present: Jonathan Pope; Janda Ricci-Munn, Ed Wiederhold

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. *Continued Business: None for this meeting.*
2. *Request from G.F.A.A. for road closures for the Gloucester Fisherman Triathlon on Sunday, August 7, 2011*

Councilor Verga declared he is an ex officio member of the Gloucester Fisherman Athletic Association (GFAA) Board and would not participate in the discussion or vote on Agenda Items #2 and #3.

Jonathan Pope, GFAA Board member informed the Committee that Lt. Aiello of the Gloucester Police Department would be sending a memo that he is “on board” with the plan as proposed by the GFAA for their safety plans and road closures. They anticipate the memo will be submitted by the time the matter goes before the City Council. They’re looking to have the transition area this year in St. Peter’s Square, similar to the first year’s Triathlon. They’ll look for Lt. Aiello’s recommendations as to what roads should be closed and for how long. Their main safety concern is the bike route where it crosses Rt. 127. That crossing point was problematic for them last year; and they trying to come up with a better, safer route. They are considering returning to the first year’s route due to this safety concern.

Janda Ricci-Munn, founder of the Triathlon felt if they return to the first year’s route in the Magnolia area it would be easier for motorists by not closing all of Magnolia Avenue. The course last year, “pretty much without incident”, the biggest issue with Western Avenue is a State highway technically; and that the State Highway Department would have to give them a closure for that road. He believed the State would not likely grant them a road closure. Mr. Munn expressed that having cyclist go through a blind intersection like the one crossing Rt. 127 was putting too many people at risk. So far the event has been a great success; and emphasized they are prioritizing safety in looking at the course layout.

Councilor Ciolino stated if they change the route by August, they should advise P&D so the motion can be amended. He noted a past problem with Whale Watch operators having issues with their passengers being unable to board their boats on or around the time of the race as well as during it.

Mr. Munn stated they’ve addressed this issue this year by adjusting the run route. In years past they closed Rogers Street up to Walgreens. With route changes this year, they’ll be able to keep everything opened up down to the Harbor Loop open allowing for access to Walgreen’s, Harbor Loop. All the runners need in that area is one lane on Rogers Street.

Councilor Ciolino asked as a courtesy to the Whale Watch companies that the organizers let them know of this year’s plan.

Mr. Munn agreed they need to better coordinate with these groups who were all in favor of the race.

Councilor Ciolino recalled the issue was two years ago the police were turning people away from those areas. The Building Center also expressed concerns because they’re open during the time of the race.

Mr. Pope responded they will work with Lt. Aiello to assist with a training session as they bring in policemen from Manchester and Rockport which did create some problems as they were unfamiliar with the roads involved. The plan is to do that with the 7 mile race as well.

Councilor Ciolino asked if they've met with the Ward 2 Councilor, Anne Mulcahey which the organizers indicated they had not; and so the Councilor suggested they do so before it goes to City Council.

Additionally, the Councilor asked that they send an email or letter to the businesses in the Fort so that there are no surprises.

Mr. Pope also assured the Committee they would have a Certificate of Insurance in place. It is the same company that is doing the management of the race.

Councilor Ciolino suggested an email or a note to the businesses in the Fort, citing Cape Pond Ice, for example, to let them know what will be happening and when.

Mr. Pope responded they plan to go door-to-door in the Fort because those folks are the most impacted.

Councilor Whynott stated knowing all the people involved with the Triathlon; he thought it would be a wonderful event.

Councilor Ciolino added it was a first-class event and a great one for the City.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Whynott, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Planning & Development Committee voted 2 in favor, 0 opposed 1 (Verga) abstention, to recommend to the City Council a temporary parking ban and/or restrictions along the following areas and roads for the purpose of road closures in order to conduct the G.F.A.A. 3rd Annual Gloucester Triathlon on Sunday, August 7, 2011 as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Gloucester Safety Officer assigned to the event and the Fire Chief or his designee as follows:

Road Closures:

- 1) **St. Peter's Square area from 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 6, 2011 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 7th;**
- 2) **Main Street from 7:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, August 7, 2011.**
- 3) **Closures of Beach Court and other roads around St. Peter's Square as deemed necessary by the City of Gloucester Safety Officers from the Police and Fire Departments or their designees.**

Race Route with Schedule: As per schedule submitted and approved with this motion.

With the Following Conditions:

1. **That a Certificate of Insurance, naming the City of Gloucester as an additionally insured party, be filed with the City Clerks Office no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Triathlon.**
 2. **Memoranda from the Gloucester Police Department and the Gloucester Fire Department giving their approval of the plans for the Gloucester Triathlon 2011 be on file with the City Clerks office 14 days in advance of the event;**
 3. **That any substantial changes, as determined by the Chief of Police or his designee and the Fire Chief or his designee, to the route or related to safety issues come back to the Council for amendment and approval.**
3. ***Request from G.F.A.A. for road closures for the Run Gloucester 7 Mile Road Race on August 21, 2011***

Mr. Pope explained to the Committee that their 7 mile race this year will be exactly the same course as the previous year. It starts at the Fishermen's Statue and ends at the same location and he recounted the actual route (on file). They expect more people this year. It was not as well attended last year as they had hoped.

Ed Wiederhold of DMSE Sports, Inc. the special events management company for this race and the Triathlon stated there was "excellent press" not only locally but in running magazines, etc. on this race. They were hoping for 3,000 participants this year.

Councilor Ciolino asked about port-o-potties and their placement last year.

Mr. Pope stated they had them right in the center island of the Boulevard.

Mr. Wiederhold stated they were dropped off early in the morning on race day and removed them by 1 p.m. the same day. They were placed that day at the early hour so that there was the least impact possible to the area as well as to avoid vandalism. They had not heard of any problems.

Councilor Ciolino stated that there were some negatives to that, noting that there are guest houses on the Boulevard.

Mr. Pope proposed this year they could put them against the wall of the Tavern.

Mr. Wiederhold said they try to keep them there as little time as possible.

Both **Councilors Ciolino** and **Whynott** thought this was a better solution.

Councilor Ciolino stated last year there were signs pointing to the downtown to direct people after the event and would appreciate their posting them again this year. He also made note that what they do at Stage Fort Park they should take up with the DPW.

Mr. Pope informed the Committee the race registration will be on Saturday at the high school.

Councilor Ciolino asked that they consider trying to partner with local businesses and restaurants.

Mr. Wiederhold stated if there were coupons they can email to registrants prior to the event.

Councilor Ciolino asked if the downtown merchants decided to do a coupon they could give it to the GFAA and they would distribute it.

Mr. Wiederhold stated at another event held in Foxboro, the businesses at Patriot Place put together a sheet of coupons which went to the pre-registered race participants. He thought August 1st would be a good date to submit something like that for it to be effective.

Responding to a comment by **Councilor Ciolino** that there would be no block party downtown this year after the race as it was poorly attended nor would any block party be tied to races this year, **Mr. Pope** noted the elite runners are done at 8:30 to 8:35 a.m. with **Mr. Wiederhold** adding last year's weather after the race was not conducive to participants sticking around as it rained immediately following the race; but should the weather be fair it would be likely more participants and their families would stay around to explore the area.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Whynott, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Planning & Development Committee voted 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Verga) Abstention, to recommend to the City Council in order to conduct the G.F.A.A. 2nd Annual Run Gloucester 7 Mile Road Race on August 21, 2011, a temporary parking ban and/or restrictions along the following areas and roads for the purpose of road closures as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Gloucester Safety Officer assigned to the event and the Fire Chief or his designee:

Road Closures: 6:00 a.m. to Noon water side of Stacy Boulevard.

Race Route: As per schedule submitted and approved with this motion.

With the following conditions:

- 1. That a Certificate of Insurance, naming the City of Gloucester as an additional insured party, be filed with the City Clerks Office no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Run Gloucester 7 Mile Road Race.**

2. **Memoranda from the Gloucester Police Department and the Gloucester Fire Department giving their approval of the plans for the G.F.A.A. 2nd Annual Run Gloucester 7 Mile Road Race on August 21, 2011 be on file with the City Clerks office 14 days in advance of the event;**
3. **That any substantial changes, as determined by the Chief of Police or his designee and the Fire Chief or his designee, to the route or related to safety issues come back to the Council for amendment and approval.**

Mr. Pope mentioned there will likely be a kid's race in conjunction with the Run Gloucester 7 Mile Road Race, but it would be contained in Stage Fort Park.

4. 2011-001: *Application to amend Gloucester Zoning Ordinance re: 77 Langsford Street*

Councilor Ciolino shared with the Committee that the attorney for the applicant asked that the matter of the application to amend the GZO re: 77 Langsford Street be continued. This matter was referred not just to P&D but to the Planning Board also. He explained that when the P&D Committee "gets the results" of the Planning Board hearing with their recommendations it will then be placed on the agenda for P&D.

This matter was continued and will reappear on the P&D Agenda when the Planning Board returns their recommendations to the Planning & Development Committee.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees**

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS FILED AT THE MEETING: None.