

Elizabeth Celtic Festival Association, LLC

January 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held at Los Volcanoes Restaurant, Elizabeth, Colorado and was called to order at 2:37 p.m. by festival president Neil Gillette.

In attendance: Neil Gillette, Wendy Hiserote, Kathy Hallahan, Bill & Michelle Holzman, David Sandekian, John & Alana Wolner, Lauren Douglas, Tom Hughes and Jim Campbell.

Absent: Jeff Rutt, Erik Hook, Margie Ashura, Suzette Frausto, Janet VanEps, Hank Bradshaw, Shari Gillette, Jake Stephens, John Park and someone to take over piping since Marty & Barb Wilson will be at their oldest son's wedding, we think.

1. Admission prices and tickets.

Admission prices for spectators will largely stay the same. Neil proposed raising adult ticket price to \$12 and bringing the retired military up from \$1 to \$5. What we ended up doing was keeping the \$10 for adults at the gate, but we did raise the retired military to \$5, which is the same as active duty military, and is the same for teens and seniors.

Essentially, there will be the \$10 rate for adults (ages 18-64). And the \$5 rate (seniors 65+), teens (13-17), active duty military and retired military (both with valid I.D.). Children 12 & under will still be free.

It was decided that there would be half price admission after 5:00 p.m. on Saturday only.

It was also decided to do away with the "get in free hour" on Sunday morning (last year from 9 - 10 a.m.).

The festival will work again with TicketsWest for both on-line and tickets available at King Soopers. Neil will work on having tickets available next month for initial promotion work. The festival will not have 2-day tickets available.

Alana will check into bringing credit card capability to the front gate for ticket sales. Also a portable ATM machine in the Saucy Wench Pub would be helpful, Alana will also check into this aspect.

2. Hours and Scheduling for the festival.

Saturday--Gates are open at 9:00 a.m. and stay open thru 7:00 p.m. or until it seems like it's no longer worthwhile to staff the gate and collect admissions (that's the call of the front gate personnel). Events will continue until 9:00 p.m., same as last year. Special changes below.

Sunday--Gates are open at 9:00 a.m. and stay open through 3:00 p.m. or until it seems like it's no longer worthwhile to staff the gate and collect admissions (that's the call of the front gate personnel). We are going to close the festival at 4:00 p.m. this year (instead of 4:30 p.m.), since we've observed that the event is really winding down and people need to get to work the next day...a half hour is quite helpful.

2-b Scheduling changes.

The committee thinks that the **Scottish Athletics** probably doesn't need to go into the evening and, instead propose that we wrap up the Heavy Events before 6:00 p.m., then have the **Parade of the Clans & reenactors at 6:00 p.m.** on the Scottish Athletic Field, followed by the **Haggis Toss Championships (around 6:15-ish).**

Haggis Toss prelims for the amateur Men would be at 1:00 p.m. on the grass baseball field, after the Rugby match. All prelim participants would get a free beer ticket. The top five (or some number) would be eligible for the finals after the Parade of the Clans.

Bonny Knees would be after the Haggis Toss Championships, and would be held in the Pavilion Building (Edinburgh Stage) around 7:00 p.m. The Saucy Wench Pub would close some time after the Bonny Knees contest, when the Pub staff thinks it should close (sometime around 8:00 p.m.).

2-c Tent closings on Saturday.

We will ask the **clans** to stay open until at least 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

For **Dog Exhibitors**, they should stay until the last demo, depending on the heat, the crowds, how the dogs are feeling, etc., which would probably have some of the back dog booths quietly closing at 4:00 p.m..

This year we will say that the **merchants & food vendors** can close at 7:00 p.m. (instead of 8:00 p.m. like last year), if they wish...or they may stay open if they have business.

*In all cases, there will be **no cars allowed in the festival area until at least 7:00 p.m.**, then carefully, depending on foot traffic (because the festival is still officially open) and nearby events.*

3. Dogs and other animals at the festival.

It was discussed whether the festival should allow dogs to come with spectators, and simply charge \$5 a dog (like a few other festivals in the east have done), but in the end it was decided to prohibit dogs, unless they are part of the Dogs of the British Isles show area.

The festival needs to have prominent signage at the front parking gate, also at the main gate coming from parking regarding the fact that the festival does not allow pets into the festival grounds.

All vendors, clans, and other festival performers and volunteers who feel that they must bring their dogs must register their dogs using a form that is being developed. All non-performing and/or exhibiting dogs must stay leashed or confined at all times and we will have some total 'non-dog areas' (like the food areas, and some performance venues). There will be no charge for registering these unofficial dogs, but if the dogs are not registered the committee agreed that the dog and their owner would be escorted out of the festival immediately. Obviously, this was a sore point last year.

4. Camping.

The committee will find out from Parks & Rec (in about 10 days), what they are really doing about camping and the updating of their water system, which may result in EPR developing the park as a campground with hook-ups. Many things may change about how camping is done at the festival.

We are looking into having the lower west side area available for our performer (free) camping. We recognize that the different living history and performer groups and musicians all want to have some 'off stage' area to relax, eat, regroup, etc. The area mentioned is completely undeveloped (no tables) but there aren't many tables in the east upper area either. John will deal with Doug Jones again this year regarding the parking lot, at that time he will also ask if some small tents/encampments can be located in the lower west side of the park.

5. Hospitality Tent.

Only certain people should be able to get a meal; performers, volunteers, people who are not charging us to come to the festival, etc. Who else do we provide a meal to?

Lauren will get wristbands for those who are allowed to receive the services of the Hospitality Tent. Jennifer Goodland and her people will handle the tent again this year.

6. Golf Carts.

The festival needs 2 golf carts explicitly at our disposal. We still would like Joe and Karen to drive those in need around the festival grounds. Jim spoke with Joe last year regarding a trailer for hauling the trash. Wendy will check into the trailer when she speaks to Joe about the golf cart rentals for this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

The next meeting is Sat., Feb. 20, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the Carlson Bldg., 239 Main Street, Elizabeth, CO