

Mar 19, 2026

Irmo Events Committee

Attendance:

Gabriel Penfield <GabrielPenfield@townofirmosc.com>

Barb Waldman <barbwaldman@townofirmosc.com>

Jim Crosland <jcrosland@townofirmosc.com> ,

Prentiss Brewer <pbrewer@townofirmosc.com>

George Frazier <georgefrazier75@yahoo.com> ,

Marie Ryan <marie.ridinger@gmail.com> ,

Cynthia Giles <cynthia@cutthroatmarketing.com> ,

Ashley Edmiston <ashleyedmiston@gmail.com> ,

Absent:

Eric Swiger <eswiger21@gmail.com> ,

Bill Danielson <billdanielson@townofirmosc.com> ,

Danielle McNaughton <dMcNaughton@townofirmosc.com> ,

- **Call to Order and Meeting Corrections:** George officially called to order the Events Committee meeting. They noted that there were no minutes to approve from the last meeting and they did not have any past events to discuss, allowing the meeting to proceed directly to upcoming events ([00:01:25](#)).
- **Update on the Border Series Skate Event:** Marie provided an update on the Border Series Skate Event scheduled for March 27th and 28th, noting the Friday event (March 27th) would be an open skate from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM with local skaters performing tricks. On Saturday (March 28th), the event is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, featuring the Irmo Police Department explorers navigating traffic, and three food vendors: Filipino Posina, Kona Ice, and Pops Family Barbecue. The vendors are expected to set up by 9:00 AM, with one vendor planning to set up and potentially sell items on Friday night ([00:02:32](#)).
- **Flyer Update for the Border Series Skate Event:** Marie asked for an update to the event flyer to clearly list the food vendors: Filipino Coina, Kona Ice, and Pops Family Barbecue. Although an updated flyer had been produced, the Filipino Cosina logo did not explicitly name them, so the suggestion was made to add bullet points listing the food vendors ([00:03:42](#)).

- **Discussion on the Fourth of July Laser Show:** The committee discussed maintaining the Fourth of July laser show event on the actual holiday, which falls on a Saturday in 2026. It was expressed that they are not in competition with Lake Murray, which may also host fireworks, and they proposed continuing the event with Bill from Laser Chicken due to its growing success and the "amazing wonderful show" they put on in previous years ([00:05:03](#)).
- **Support for Continuing the Laser Show Event:** Committee members strongly supported continuing the Fourth of July laser show, noting its success over several years and its convenience for Irmo residents who want to avoid heavy Lake Murray traffic ([00:06:45](#)). The event provides a successful alternative to fireworks for families with small children and military members who may suffer from PTSD, which was considered a significant benefit ([00:07:59](#)).
- **Planning Logistics for the July 4th Event:** Discussion turned to the logistics of the July 4th event, as the laser show requires darkness and the event falls on a weekend. Suggestions were made to open the park later, potentially around 6:00 PM or 7:00 PM, and to incorporate more activities, such as additional food trucks and activities for children like face painting, instead of the committee frantically making hot dogs ([00:08:59](#)).
- **Replacing Free Hot Dogs with Pizza Vouchers:** The committee discussed eliminating the free hot dogs, which they felt was difficult to manage on a hot grill, and suggested offering free pizza from local places like Little House of Pizza or Costco as a cost-effective alternative to maintain the community draw ([00:10:42](#)). Marie was tasked with calling restaurants to get pricing for 18-inch pizzas ([00:11:32](#)).
- **Next Steps for Approving Laser Chicken for July 4th:** It was decided that Bill needed to come back to the next month's agenda with a formal price proposal for the laser show so the committee could vote on the matter and submit it for council approval. Bill was also invited to speak under the "presentation for citizens" agenda item during the current meeting ([00:12:26](#)).
- **Announcement of Nike Pro Skateboarding Team Event:** Marie announced an upcoming pop-up event where the Nike Pro Skateboarding Team would visit the Irmo skate park on April 7th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Although it is a national tour, the team wants the event to be casual, without closing the park, and simply skate with local community members ([00:13:18](#)). The committee was informed

that they could not post about the event on social media yet because formal confirmation was pending ([00:14:34](#)).

- **Clarification of Committee Terms and Membership:** Gabe clarified that committee terms are four years and do not require annual reduction, noting that if a chair leaves, a new chair can be appointed to finish the existing term ([00:15:22](#)). Additionally, it was confirmed that Ashley and Eric were approved by the council and now hold voting membership, bringing the total number of voting members to seven, including the five members present ([00:16:13](#)).
- **Status of the Skate Event Banner:** Prentiss confirmed that the banner for the upcoming skate event had been ordered and that the banners from last year's event, including those for CCI and Palmetto Citizens, were located ([00:17:31](#)).
- **Presentation by Bill from Laser Chicken:** Bill from Laser Chicken reported a high attendance of 940 people at the previous year's event, contrary to the previously mentioned 500 ([00:18:23](#)). Bill outlined plans for this year's show, called "Celebrate Irmo," which will feature a segment celebrating Irmo's neighborhoods and landmarks, similar to a show Bill previously created for Anderson County ([00:19:42](#)).
- **Sponsorship and Event Expansion Ideas:** Bill mentioned that a prior attendee suggested the event could attract large sponsors, reinforcing the idea of seeking additional sponsorships. He suggested making the Fourth of July event a "mini festival" with more food trucks, vendors, and entertainment, and announced that Ronnie Lane, a professional DJ from Party Time Entertainment, would be providing high-quality sound and entertainment for the event ([00:20:52](#)).
- **Cost and Timing Commitment for Laser Show:** Bill stated that the cost of this year's laser show would be approximately \$400 more than last year due to the new DJ, making the estimated cost around \$6400 ([00:23:04](#)). Bill indicated a need for a quick decision as they had other offers for July 4th, and the committee asked them to return the following month with a final price for approval ([00:22:00](#)).
- **Creative Ideas for the "Celebrate Irmo" Laser Show:** Bill solicited creative ideas for the "Celebrate Irmo" portion of the laser show, noting that the high schools, police department, and fire department are important community elements to include. Specific suggestions for inclusion were made, such as Irmo's high schools (Irmo and Dutch Fork), possibly Chapin, and having a yellow jacket, the mascot, fly down ([00:24:03](#)).

- **Presentation by the International Festival Coordinator:** Angie Fontana, the Sharp View Irmo International Festival Coordinator, presented on the upcoming event scheduled for April 26th from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The festival has secured approximately 24 food trucks, a kids' zone, 40 vendors, a car show, and a full entertainment schedule including Brazilian, mariachi, and Indian dancers ([00:27:10](#)) ([00:29:32](#)).
- **Hospitality Tax Clarification for International Festival:** Angie Fontana sought clarification on hospitality tax requirements for vendors, noting they were working with an apprentice regarding the line drawn between Lexington County and Richland County. It was decided that they would use the park's address, which is located in Lexington County, meaning vendors would only pay the 2% Lexington County tax, and the coordinator would be removing the Richland County reference from their acceptance letters ([00:29:32](#)).
- **Adjournment of the Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned by motion 6:30pm ([00:29:32](#)).