

TOWN OF
IRMO
EVENTS COMMITTEE



EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Irmo Municipal Building
7300 Woodrow Street, Irmo, SC 29063

May 14, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Minutes of April 9, 2026
- III. Old Business
 - A. Boardr Skate Park Event After Action Report
- IV. New Business
 - A. Fourth of July Laser Show
 - B. Silent Disco
 - C. Trunk or Treat
- V. Presentation by Citizens
- VI. Adjournment

ADA Notice: The Town of Irmo complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For meeting accommodations, call (803) 781-7050 during normal business hours and ask for the Events Manager or

the Communications Director.

Apr 9, 2026

Irmo Events Committee

In attendance:

George <georgefrazier75@yahoo.com>

Eric Swiger <eswiger21@gmail.com>

Ashley <ashleymedmiston@gmail.com>

Cynthia <cynthia@cutthroatmarketing.com>

Gabriel Penfield <GabrielPenfield@townofirmosc.com>

Prentiss Brewer <pbrewer@townofirmosc.com>

Call to Order: 6pm.

Details

- **Events Committee Meeting Call to Order and Minutes Approval:** George called the Events Committee meeting for April 9th, 2026, to order. The committee then moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on March 19th, 2026. The motion by Gabe and Ashley to approve the minutes was passed by those present ([00:00:00](#)).
- **Recap of the Irmo Church of God Easter Egg Hunt:** The committee discussed the recent Easter Egg Hunt event, which had an estimated turnout of 850 people ([00:01:49](#)). Mary's mobile market was noted for successfully bringing in vendors, which was considered a great addition to the event ([00:00:00](#)). Brandon from the Irmo Church of God provided feedback, noting that the event was highly structured and organized ([00:01:49](#)).
- **Positive Event Feedback and Age Separation:** Attendees commented positively on the event's organization, including the "Easter egg security" implemented to prevent children from grabbing eggs before the start time. A highly successful element was the division of the egg hunt into separate age groups: three and under, four to seven, eight to twelve, and adults/teens. This age separation helped diversify the ages and prevent overcrowding, improving the overall experience ([00:03:20](#)).
- **Issues with Event Start Expectations and Communication:** One point of confusion was that many people lined up at the egg hunt areas instead of starting in the amphitheater as expected ([00:04:54](#)). Although the correction was

made quickly, staff noted that there were no signs indicating that participants needed to start in the amphitheater first. They acknowledged this lack of communication was the committee's fault ([00:06:28](#)).

- **Event Improvement Suggestions for the Easter Egg Hunt:** For future events, it was suggested increasing the total egg count from 9,003 to 10,000. There was a proposal to invite a car club to attend the next year's event ([00:07:53](#)). Additionally, the committee should explore incorporating a food drive to help support the community, especially given the large number of attendees ([00:09:08](#)).
- **Details of the Easter Egg Hunt Opening and Games:** Brandon detailed the event's opening sequence, which began around 10:05 AM with kid-friendly music, giveaways, and games. One suggestion for the next year was to use party streamers to physically block off the hunt areas, creating a clear starting line for the children ([00:10:37](#)).
- **Discussion on Food Trucks for the Easter Egg Hunt:** Attendees noted that food trucks, which were expected this year, did not show up for the event ([00:11:54](#)). They deemed the absence of the scheduled food trucks a lost opportunity for those spots to be filled by other vendors. The committee decided that if the event organizer, Mary, does not secure the food trucks, the committee needs to step in and help ([00:13:40](#)).
- **Police Presence and Event Goals:** There was no police presence at the large event, despite having been requested at a prior meeting ([00:13:40](#)). They agreed that due to the size of the crowd, securing police presence for next year is necessary, acknowledging that it would cost around \$60 an hour and impact the budget ([00:14:59](#)). The primary goal of the event is to foster community unity, bring joy, and positively impact the lives of the attendees ([00:16:15](#)).
- **Boardr Skate Park Event Review and Bathroom Issues:** Prentiss reported that the Boardr Skate Park event was well-attended by hundreds of families from diverse locations. The park's single bathroom went down during the event, leading to a decision that porta-potties must be ordered for any future events at parks with only one restroom, specifically the New Whitt Cline Community Park and Rawls Creek Park ([00:18:40](#)). They noted that the lack of porta-potties was an issue the previous year as well, and requested more notice for future events of this nature ([00:20:07](#)).

- Fourth of July Laser Show Timing and Food Debate:** The committee confirmed the Fourth of July laser show date and sought to finalize the event time ([00:22:25](#)). Since the laser show cannot start until after dark, which is around 8:41 PM in July, a late event time is necessary ([00:23:43](#)). The discussion shifted to food, with participants debating between continuing to offer free hot dogs or switching to pizza, with a later start time of 7:00 PM proposed ([00:22:25](#)) ([00:24:43](#)).
- Hot Dog Logistics and Proposal for Professional Service:** Hot dogs were noted as a traditional, popular, and cheaper option compared to pizza, despite the previous difficulty volunteers had in assembly and handling large quantities ([00:23:43](#)). A proposal was made to hire a local professional, such as Cox Barbecue, to cook and manage the hot dogs, ensuring the money stays within the community ([00:25:38](#)). They acknowledged that hiring a vendor would be an effective solution to manage the high volume of hot dogs needed for the expected crowd of about 1,200 people ([00:32:11](#)) ([00:37:44](#)).
- Event Start Time and Approaching Cox Barbecue:** A motion by Gabe second by Cynthia, was made and approved to start the Fourth of July Laser Show event at 7:00 PM. A motion was then approved to approach Cox Family Barbecue to inquire about handling the cooking of the hot dogs for the event ([00:30:56](#)). It was discussed that if they hire Cox Barbecue, they may still need to provide volunteers to assist with wrapping the 1,200 to 1,500 hot dogs ([00:37:44](#)) ([00:40:30](#)).
- Laser Show Budget Approval:** The budget for the laser show was set at \$6,600, which is an increase of \$400 from the previous year due to the cost of a new DJ ([00:43:09](#)). A motion to approve the \$6,600 budget for "Laser Chicken" (the laser show vendor) for the Fourth of July event was approved. They decided the approved amount would be taken to the council for final approval ([00:44:22](#)).
- Silent Disco Event Discussion:** The committee introduced the idea of hosting a silent disco, which involves multiple competing DJs and attendees wearing switchable headphones ([00:45:31](#)). The first silent disco they hosted two years prior was very successful, prompting the desire to hold another one ([00:46:52](#)). They tentatively scheduled the event for sometime in August, possibly the first Saturday, at a location like a school gym, citing better parking and the ability to control darkness ([00:48:58](#)).

- **Silent Disco Logistical Planning and Council Approval:** The committee acknowledged that any new event must be approved by the town council, with a budget presented to the town administrator 30 days in advance. They decided to table the Silent Disco discussion until the next meeting, allowing time to obtain pricing quotes for the necessary headphones and equipment rentals ([00:53:27](#)). The event should be organized to allow participation from community members, including those randomly walking their dogs in the park ([00:51:19](#)).
- **Chili Cook-Off Date Discussion:** The committee discussed changing the annual chili cook-off date from the last weekend in January to October 10th or 17th, or potentially November ([00:54:21](#)) ([00:56:51](#)). They noted that early October can still be very hot and that January is the only time guaranteed to be chilly. The date of October 10th presented a conflict because of a major local football game, and the committee felt January was difficult due to the post-holiday break ([00:55:36](#)).
- **Discussion of Chili Cook-Off Timing:** The group discussed the optimal time for a chili cook-off, noting that holding it at the beginning of October might conflict with the existing "trunk or treat" event at the end of the month ([00:59:48](#)) ([01:14:33](#)). Alternative dates considered included November, around Veterans Day, and January, which was viewed as a potentially better time for warm chili and could coincide with a car show ([00:59:48](#)) ([01:03:56](#)). The initial idea of an October date was dismissed ([01:06:11](#)) ([01:14:33](#)).
- **Chili Cook-Off and Car Show Partnership:** The preference shifted towards hosting the chili cook-off in January, possibly in conjunction with a car show, as this type of event typically begins its season then and attracts a large number of people. Cynthia Giles committed to speaking with the car club about a potential partnership and would provide an update at the next meeting ([01:01:12](#)) ([01:03:56](#)). The possibility of partnering with the group responsible for the Cherry Blossom Festival car show was also mentioned, acknowledging that they are different groups but could provide options ([01:05:20](#)).
- **Veterans Day Activities and Support:** Cynthia Giles inquired about existing Veterans Day activities, noting that the Veterans Department holds a small event, and confirmed that adding a chili cook-off to that weekend would not be burdensome on the town. The town's role in a Veterans Day chili cook-off would primarily be promotion and presence at the veterans recognition ([01:02:34](#)).

- Trunk or Treat Event Scheduling and Growth:** The discussion moved to the "trunk or treat" event, which falls on a Saturday this year, and noted the start time is typically 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. ([01:07:20](#)) ([01:14:33](#)). The event has grown significantly, with participants starting to arrive as early as 5:00 p.m., which led to a discussion about better staging and managing the crowds ([01:07:20](#)) ([01:13:25](#)).
- Revising Trunk or Treat Vendor Setup:** A suggestion was made to revise the vendor signup form for trunk or treat to include a checkbox that separates participants who will use their car from those who will use a booth space with a pop-up tent. This new system would allow them to put tent/booth participants along the walking path used for the Okra Strut, utilizing the park space and helping to manage the flow of people ([01:08:48](#)) ([01:16:42](#)). The revised sign-up process would allocate specific spots for tent or car setup ([01:10:04](#)).
- Managing Candy Distribution and Volume:** The group addressed the issue of candy distribution, noting the difficulty in budgeting due to the large crowd, which last year was estimated to be well over 2,000 people ([01:10:04](#)) ([01:13:25](#)). Participants should be advised to bring enough candy for 2,000 kids, and it was recommended that people hand out one to two pieces per child to help vendors manage their supply and ensure equitable distribution ([01:10:04](#)) ([01:12:20](#)).
- Logistics and Safety at Trunk or Treat:** Safety and logistical concerns were discussed, including implementing rules that require vendors to remain in place until the event ends at 8:00 p.m. ([01:15:36](#)). A recommendation was also made to change the foot traffic loop to a counterclockwise direction, leading into the park from the end of the parking lot to maximize the setup area, especially for non-vehicle vendors ([01:16:42](#)).
- Haunted Tent and Lighting Considerations:** The idea of including "haunted tents" or walk-through setups was entertained, with the suggestion that scarier elements could be placed in a separate, darker trail area of the park ([01:16:42](#)). The need for adequate lighting was raised, and the possibility of renting large, power-generated lights was discussed, requiring budget approval and a search for rental vendors ([01:17:57](#)).
- Final Approval of Trunk or Treat Event:** The meeting participants entertained a motion to formally approve the trunk or treat event for October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., which was seconded and carried ([01:18:58](#)).

No presentation from the public. Meeting Adjourned at 7.21pm Motioned by Gabe and Seconded by Eric. All approved.