



# Wauwatosa, WI

## Civic Celebration Commission

### Meeting Minutes - Final

7725 W. North Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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Thursday, August 28, 2025

7:00 PM

Committee Room #1

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#### Regular Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Brunow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

#### ROLL CALL

**Present 8**      Member, Chair Robert Brunow  
Member Mike Anich  
Member Sara Leonhardt  
Member Pat Premetz  
Member Brit Swisher  
Member Wendy Venske  
Member Matt Wicker  
Member Joseph Makhoulf II

**Excused 4**      Member Edward Bearden  
Member Dan Lofy  
Member Jamie Swisher  
Aldersperson Liaison Mike Morgan

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes of the July 24, 2025, regular meeting [25-1330](#)  
**RESULT:** APPROVED  
**MOVER:** Joseph Makhoulf II  
**SECONDER:** Robert Brunow

#### DIRECTORS REPORTS

1. Drone discussions and questions [25-1324](#)  
*CANCELLED : Due to the fact that the Mayor nor City Administrator were in attendance.*
2. Drone discussion Civic Celebration Commission members & visitors [25-1325](#)  
*Resident guest, Mark Gornec, spoke to the Commission. Stated that he grew up in Wauwatosa and that in the past Wauwatosa always shined with 4th of July Activities. Thought that the drone show was pathetic compared to fireworks. States that fireworks are usually the big culmination of 4th of July activities. This year's drone show seemed melodramatic. Attended the concert with other families who expressed similar feelings. Listened to the pre-show concert and then turned to see the show but could only see about 1/2 as other 1/2 was cut off. Also since the show was a couple days separated from the actual 4th it felt like nothing was really going on, on the 4th itself. In depth discussion among commission members regarding*

options for next year's celebration and activities took place, as well as the Commissions roll in those decisions. Members noted that the vast majority of comments received did not like the drone show. Further discussion that next year's 4th of July will be celebrating the country's 250th Birthday which is a big deal, and that having just a 15-minute display will not cut it. Members noted that to do a longer/better drone show would cost a lot more money. This led to a discussion on the Commissions role in fundraising for activities, as required by the City.

Commission felt we were in a holding pattern until certain questions could be answered by city administration. General consensus however was that the Commission should move back to a fireworks show over drones for next year's celebration and that a final decision needs to be made at our next meeting.

Additional discussion took place regarding looking at options to hold all activities on the 4th of July itself. Commission will work with the Wauwatosa Police Department to discuss potential options including use of private security for events. Member William (Brit) Swisher noted that we lost a major sponsor in Penzy's because of the move away from holding all activities on the 4th of July itself, and that they used to donate \$15,000 towards fireworks, a major loss in fundraising.

Commission Chairperson Brunow requested that member Makhoulf, as secretary of the Commission, draft a letter to be sent to the Mayor and City Administrator outlining our discussion and preliminary decisions, and once again inviting them to attend our meeting and join in the discussion prior to the Commission making their final decisions.

3. Fundraising update [25-1326](#)

*Item held until next meeting so we know how we are proceeding.*

4. Comments or questions asked by potential contributors [25-1327](#)

*Item held until next meeting so we know how we are proceeding.*

5. 2025 Financial Report update [25-1328](#)

*Short \$6363.28 in General Services Fund. Short \$11,765 in fundraising needs.*

6. Getting the conversation started for 2026 [25-1329](#)

- Memorial Day parade
- Tosa parade
- Afternoon program
- Evening program
- Getting new members and volunteers for events
- Theme ideas for the 2026 parade

*Item held until next meeting.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM*