

FREEDOM BEACH FESTIVAL – CANCELED EVENT

REPORTED BY MICHELLE SWABY-SMITH – VKBPT SPECIAL EVENTS LIAISON

1. EVENT WAS BOOKED ON APRIL 1, 2016 AND WAS SCHEDULED TO HAPPEN ON MAY 29, 2016
2. JOE (EVENT ORGANIZER) CAME TO THE OFFICE ON APRIL 1, 2016 AND WE DISCUSSED THE PROCEDURES OF DOING AN EVENT AT HVKBP. ADVISED HIM OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRST CONTACTING THE STATE DUE TO TURTLE NESTING SEASON. HE WOULD HAVE TO SPEAK WITH THEM ABOUT DOING AN EVENT THAT WOULD GO AFTER SUNSET. GAVE HIM THE CONTACT INFO FOR VANESSA DORNISCH AT FL DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.
3. VANESSA RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST AND STATED THAT SHE WOULD NEED A SITE PLAN TO DETERMINE IF THEY WOULD ALLOW THE EVENT TO GO ON UNTIL 9PM
4. JOE TRAVELED OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR 8 DAYS, SO THERE WAS NO COMMUNICATION UNTIL HE RETURNED. RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM HIM ON APRIL 29TH, 2016 SAYING THAT HE APOLOGIZED BUT THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CHINA.
5. ONCE VANESSA TOLD THE EVENT ORGANIZER THAT THEY COULD PROCEED WITH PLANNING AS LONG AS THE INTENT WAS TO NOT TO GO PAST 9PM AND ALL REGULATIONS WERE COMPLIED WITH. SHE ALSO FORWARDED THE EVENT FILE TO THE FWC. I INSTRUCTED JOE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION FOR THE CITY OF MIAMI AT THAT POINT.
6. AYLIN NEVER RECEIVED THE ONLINE APPLICATION AND IT WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EVENT DATE THEREFORE I INFORMED THE EVENT ORGANIZER THAT THEY WOULD NEED TO RESCHEDULE. THEY SELECTED JULY 3RD, 2016 FOR THE NEW DATE ON MAY 16, 2016
7. ON MAY 16TH, 2016, THE EVENT ORGANIZER (JOE) WAS INSTRUCTED TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION FOR THE CITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT AYLIN COULD ADD THE EVENT TO THE JUNE SPECIAL EVENTS MEETING. ALSO REQUESTED A NEW SITE PLAN SHOWING THE ADDTL VENDOR TENTS AND OTHER ACTIVATIONS. (THE ONE I HAD ONLY SHOWED THE STAGES, THE VIP TENT AND THE VIP SKYBOX. WE SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR 5/24/16.
8. JOE, FRANKEL & GARRETT CAME TO THE OFFICE ON 5/24/16. THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE SUBMITTED THE ONLINE APPLICATION. WHEN I CALLED AYLIN ON SPEAKER (DURING THE MEETING), SHE SAID THAT SHE NEVER RECEIVED THE ONLINE APPLICATION.
9. DURING THE MEETING GARRETT WAS REPEATEDLY OFFENSIVE AND MADE SEVERAL DEROGATORY COMMENTS TO ME (SPECIAL EVENTS LIAISON – HVKBP). ONE COMMENT WAS TO ASK “WHY THEY HAD TO DO THE EVENT IN THAT PIECE OF CRAP AREA.....” HE MADE DISRESPECTFUL COMMENTS ABOUT THE TURTLES AND THE TROUBLE THE NESTING WAS CAUSING. HE ALSO TRIED TO CHALLENGE ME BY MAKING NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT WHY “THE TRUST DOESN’T JUST LET THEM DO THE EVENT AT THE PARK FOR FREE...ISN’T IT TAX PAYERS DOLLARS FUNDING THE PARK”. I EXPLAINED THAT THE TRUST NEEDS TO GENERATE ITS OWN FUNDS TO OPERATE THE PARK BUT HE KEPT DEMANDING THAT WE GIVE THE EVENT EVERYTHING FOR FREE. VERY DISRESPECTFUL!
- 10. THE CONCERN WITH THIS FREEDOM BEACH FESTIVAL EVENT GROUP AND THE IMPETUS FOR CANCELING THE EVENT AT HVKBP, IS THAT THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY WILL NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN A TIMELY MANNER AND THEIR ACTIONS GIVE US CAUSE FOR CONCERN AS IT RELATES TO THEM RESPECTING THE TURTLE NESTING RULES. THEY ARE CONFRONTATIONAL ON MANY LEVELS.**

Swaby, Michelle

From: Dornisch, Vanessa <Vanessa.Dornisch@dep.state.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Swaby, Michelle
Cc: Forchion, Guy
Subject: RE: FREEDOM BEACH FESTIVAL - 7/3/16
Attachments: Event schedule; RE: Freedom Beach Site Map - HVKBP

Hi Michelle,

I have answered each of your questions in-line in the email below. I have also attached the associated emails for your reference. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!



Vanessa D. Dornisch
Environmental Specialist II
Coastal Construction Control Line Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 7210-1
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
vanessa.dornisch@dep.state.fl.us
Cell: 561.313.9007
Office: 561.681.6703

From: Swaby, Michelle [mailto:MSwaby@miamigov.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Dornisch, Vanessa <Vanessa.Dornisch@dep.state.fl.us>
Cc: Forchion, Guy <GForchion@miamigov.com>
Subject: RE: FREEDOM BEACH FESTIVAL - 7/3/16

Hi Vanessa

We have denying this proposed event happening at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park due to several circumstances and request the following information for our records:

What date did you receive the site plan from the event organizers? I received the site plan on May 6, at which time I additionally requested a schedule and lighting plan (see attached email chain).

What date did you refer them to FWC? On May 12, Garret Nathan sent me the schedule (see attached email) and contacted me via telephone requesting guidance with the lighting plan. I referred him to FWC for assistance, but the FWC contact was out of the office for the week. On May 13, I sent him the lighting plan from a previous HVKBP event for guidance (see attached email chain). On May 17, the FWC contact responded to Mr. Nathan (see attached email). Did you send them a list of requirement in order to proceed with this event ending at 9pm? The only requirement for an event with no components on the beach is turtle-friendly lighting after 9 PM. It was my understanding they were in the process of creating the lighting plan.

Who was your main point of contact for the event? And were they willing to comply to the requirements without resistance? My main point of contact was Garret Nathan. Yes, he seemed willing to comply with my requests.

Thanks Vanessa!!!

Michelle Swaby-Smith

Special Events Liaison

Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

HISTORIC VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK

4020 Virginia Beach Drive

Miami, FL 33149

305-960-4618 Office

954-558-9664 Cell

www.virginiakeybeachpark.net

RE:UNION
MUSIC FEST

JUNE 18 MIAMI 2 PM
HISTORIC VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK



From: Dornisch, Vanessa [<mailto:Vanessa.Dornisch@dep.state.fl.us>]

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 10:39 AM

To: Joseph Scheigert <wheresjoefreedom@gmail.com>; Swaby, Michelle <MSwaby@miamigov.com>

Cc: Virginia Key Beach Park Trust <VKBPT@miamigov.com>; Forchion, Guy <GForchion@miamigov.com>

Subject: RE: FREEDOM BEACH FESTIVAL - 5/29/16

Hello Mr. Scheigert,

At your convenience, please email me a site plan for your event. If there are no components on the beach, it may be exempt from our permitting requirements.

Our general permit conditions allow lighting until 9 PM during turtle season. If lighting will be required after 9 PM (including for clean-up activities), the event may require further review by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The site plan will allow me to better determine the permitting your event will require.

Thank you,

Vanessa



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From: Joseph Scheigert [<mailto:wheresjoefreedom@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 10:10 AM
To: Swaby, Michelle <MSwaby@miamigov.com>
Cc: Virginia Key Beach Park Trust <VKBPT@miamigov.com>; Dornisch, Vanessa <Vanessa.Dornisch@dep.state.fl.us>; Forchion, Guy <GForchion@miamigov.com>
Subject: Re: FREEDOM BEACH FESTIVAL - 5/29/16

Hello Michelle how was your weekend?

Sorry just got back from China on business for 8 days. I have had my director of operations send that form in. Just last week so will be a week or two I would think as you said takes couple weeks. If we don't get it in time, no pressure I have my couple sponsors sorta up my but bout a 12 hour event or they may not sponsor this. So I negotiated if worst case we start at 11am not 12pm and go till 830 or 9 will stop sound. May 29th the sun sets at 8:23 pm that day I looked it up. The longest day of the year is on June 21st and 22nd far as the sun being out the longest lol, we do this day light savings time in the US most countries don't. But either way, If the turtle permit get to be to late will just go from 11am till 9pm lights out and sounds off the event can end at 9pm. They military is doing a sunset Taps ceremony at sunset at like 815 to 830 we scheduled it to then will end the main stage producer is a military Vet that Im letting do the closing 30 mins to an hour to honor the fallen soldiers who are not with us some very good cause type of energy going on for this one. Its a very heartfelt humanitarian type event my team and I put on. Very classy production.

Im gonna be trying to adjust to my regular schedule now so I may get some sleep for the rest of the day to get back to this time here lol, In China its 13 hours ahead there.....

Hope you have a wonderful day Michelle
Blessed!

Joseph Scheigert

Thank you.

Joseph Scheigert
Freedom Mobility Supply LLC
Freedom Events Group LLC

wheresjoefreedom@gmail.com
(754) 234-9296

Thank you.

Joseph Scheigert
Freedom Mobility Supply LLC
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On Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 4:30 PM, Swaby, Michelle <MSwaby@miamigov.com> wrote:

Hi Joe

Wanted to touch bases with you about your event scheduled for May 29th.

Have you been in contact with the State and FWC to obtain approval for the event to happen during Turtle Nesting Season?

Please be mindful thatWe cannot move forward with the event until these agencies give us the Green light!

My suggestion to you would be to do a daytime event that ends at around sunset (7pm).

We would need to factor in the breakdown & load out times in the equation as well.

Remember that we give you one day before the event to setup and one day after to breakdown included in your rental fee.

Please give me a call so that we can discuss.

Thanks!

Michelle Swaby-Smith

Special Events Liaison

Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

HISTORIC VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK

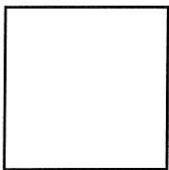
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www.virginiakeybeachpark.net



Swaby, Michelle

From: Garret Nathan <gjn_bnp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Dornisch, Vanessa
Subject: Event schedule

Hi Vanessa, here is a time schedule we have.

May 28 Load in/ stage construction going till dusk May 29 ,10 am the event opens doors. 11am flag raising ceremony starts the event. 7pm donations ceremony. 10:55 flag lowering ceremony, taps , end event. No breakdown of stage or equivalent will begin until the morning of the 29.

May 29 site breakdown...load out.

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can supply, thank you for all your help, Director of Operations Florida Freedom Fest The Better Days Foundation President and Founder Garret Nathan
954 594 2398

From: Dornisch, Vanessa
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 2:43 PM
To: 'Garret Nathan' <gjn_bnp@yahoo.com>
Cc: 'Halley, Kristin' <Kristin.Halley@MyFWC.com>
Subject: RE: Freedom Beach Site Map

Hi Garret,

In addition to the site plan, please provide a schedule/brief description of events/times and a lighting plan.

Thank you,

Vanessa

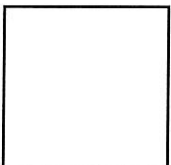


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From: Garret Nathan [mailto:gjn_bnp@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 2:34 PM
To: Dornisch, Vanessa <Vanessa.Dornisch@dep.state.fl.us>
Subject: Freedom Beach Site Map

Hi Vanessa here are the site maps for our event , please respond via email that they are received , please let me now if there is anything else you need,

Thank you,
Director of Operations
Freedom Beach Fest
President
Better Days Foundation
Garret Nathan
954-594-2398



Swaby, Michelle

From: Halley, Kristin <Kristin.Halley@MyFWC.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 11:36 AM
To: Garret Nathan
Cc: MarineTurtle; Dornisch, Vanessa
Subject: RE: Freedom Beach Site Map - HVKBP

Nathan,

What is your event and when? The biggest recommendations I can give to you for the lighting design is to utilize long wavelength lights (amber, red, red-orange) and keep lights to minimum necessary for the event. Lights should be downward directed and facing away from the beach. When submitting something to FWC for review, we need to see all proposed lighting – stage, security, vendor, etc.

I will be out of the office the rest of the week doing some site visits, but will be back next week to provide any further assistance.

Thank you,

Kristin

From: Dornisch, Vanessa [mailto:Vanessa.Dornisch@dep.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Halley, Kristin <Kristin.Halley@MyFWC.com>
Cc: Garret Nathan <gjn_bnp@yahoo.com>; MarineTurtle <MarineTurtle@MyFWC.com>; Sella, Kristen <Kristen.Sella@MyFWC.com>
Subject: Freedom Beach Site Map - HVKBP

Hi Kristin,

Mr. Nathan (copied) is working on a lighting plan for this event, but needs some assistance in selecting approvable fixtures. At your convenience, can you please give him a call to discuss at 954-594-2398.

Thank you,

Vanessa



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