

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Ed Lavallee, City Manager

FROM: Len Bramble, P.E., Assistant City Manager

DATE: January 11, 2018

SUBJECT: Special Event Request – Battle of the Bridges
Event Date: September 14-15, 2018

Background

The Sarasota Scullers Youth Rowing Program (SSYRP), led by Danielle Tanaka, Event Coordinator, are proposing *The Battle of the Bridges*. The event is to be a USRowing (www.usrowing.com) sanctioned event; USRowing is a nonprofit organization recognized by the US Olympic Committee as the governing body for the sport of rowing. The event is considered to be a “medium sized regatta”, and thus USRowing will provide officials to manage the races as well as insurance coverage. All participants must be registered with USRowing and complete their participant waiver.

The event will be a “rowing head race” on the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) comprised of teams from throughout the southeast. Set-up will commence after 4:00 PM on Friday, September 14th, with racing occurring on Saturday, September 15th from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Event tear-down and cleanup will be complete by 5:00 PM on Saturday, September 15th.

As currently planned this event will utilize much, if not all, of Venice Marine Park, Legacy Park, and the east side of Venetian Waterway Trail between Marine Park and the South Bridge. Participating teams will park their boat trailers in the parking lot of Marina Park & Boat Ramp. Rowing team tents will be along the eastside of the ICW along the Venetian Waterway Trail. Approximately 30 individual timed races will occur during the race day, with categories for both men and women including open, masters, youth, youth lightweight, and youth novice and in boat configurations for 1, 2, 4 and 8 rowers.

City staff as well as staff from a variety of other agencies will continue to work closely with the event holder to insure that the event is planned and conducted in a safe manner and to minimize disruptions to the citizens of the area. These agencies include, but are not limited to, the Coast Guard, several Venice departments, several Sarasota County departments, WCIND and FWC. Also included will be a variety of civic organizations including Venice Mainstreet, Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI), Friends of Legacy Trail, and others. A special event agreement with applicable terms and conditions, including the assignment of city Police Officers, traffic barricades and cones, and other city assets, as well as applicable City costs to the event, will be achieved with the event holder before the event can occur. Business owners, tenants, etc. in close proximity to the event near the eastern side of the ICW will be notified of the event by the event holder and by the City via the usual media outlets. The SCAT facility at the Venice Train Depot will remain open throughout the event. Detailed information and maps describing the event are included and attached.

Requested Action

Staff respectfully request City Council approval of this special event.