

**NEOSHO EVENTS BOARD
MINUTES
November 4, 2025**

Members Present:

- Jeff Jones, Cathleen Bailey, Kelly Lay, Lauri Lyerla, Justin Carnahan, Pris Reed, Janet Penn

Others Present:

- Jessica Johnson and Nancy Tomlinson

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Janet Penn at 4:03 pm

Jeff motioned for the meeting minutes from September 24, 2025 to be approved. Justin seconds the motion. Minutes Approved.

Going forward meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall 203 East Main Street, Neosho, Missouri 64850

RECAP Fall Festival 2025:

- **Vendor Booths**
 - 276 vendors attended.
 - Largest event of the last 7 held.
- **General:**
 - Chamber indicated 17,400 people were in attendance
 - The chamber can provide details to help us market future events to the audience of people that attended.
 - History Alley had more people visit TY vs LY
 - Approximately 300 - 400 people
 - Artist Alley
 - Liked having other booths down that street
 - Unable to fill with Artists due to completion at another event (Crystal Bridges)
 - No live music worked well
- **Could this be a two day Event?**
 - Conversation and ideas were shared for consideration
 - We would need different activities planned for the two days in hopes of attracting the same or new visitors.
 - IDEAS:
 - Could we bring some of the successful activities from Celebrate into Fall Festival if we add a second day
 - Could we leverage ideas from Maple leaf festival and Apple butter days which are both multiple day events.
 - Would we want to take on a parade? If we did, what would be the route?
 - Kids are out on Summer Break so NOT sure these could be done but were ideas
 - Show Choir Competition / Band Competition

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Celebrate Neosho June 27, 2026 PLANNING:

- **General**
 - Need to book PA Chris Fiddler now for both Celebrate and Fall Festival
 - WE NEED Picnic Tables and possibly tents set up around the Courthouse for shade and places to sit with food trucks
 - Could we find a sponsor to do this?
 - Possibly Rocketdyne Church
- **Music**
 - Not confirmed but considerations
 - Opening Prayer, Pledge (YES)
 - Keith Brumfield
 - National Anthem
 - Neosho School Show Choir?
 - Performers to consider:
 - Rebecca Hawkins, Devin Hames (BAND), The Lost Dogs, Harmony Street Trio,
 - Working on Army Band The Night Cats
 - Perform for free
 - Jessica's contact information was provided to them during the meeting.
- **Food**
 - 8 Food Trucks
- **Activities**
 - Kids zone -
 - Bounce house confirmed for both Celebrate and Fall Festival
 - Need more bounce houses and less water
 - Sand box, Water Slides, Balance Bike (Ron's Towing), Tractor Pull, Bungee Jump, Giant Swing
 - Freedom Church Dunk Tank
 - Finger Printing for Kids
 - Possible Face Painting and/or Temporary Tattoo
 - NO Kiddie Train
 - Other Activities:
 - Cornhole
 - Watermelon seed spitting
 - Car Show - Flagship
 - Need registration and follow set times by the City for the event.
 - Cutest Dog Contest
 - Need someone in charge of this
 - Possibly a local Dog Groomer / All Dogs Dream / Gateway Getaway?
 - Businesses on the square may have something set up in front of their store
 - Eastside - Pickleball, Batting Cage, Karaoke?
- **NEW Ideas:**
 - Face paint / Airbrush Tattoos
 - Touch a Truck (Heavy Equipment Playground)
 - Kids play with actual heavy equipment
 - 8-10 vehicles for kids to play on and interact with
 - 4 state equipment might be a contact
 - Bright Futures School Supply Drive
 - Laura Burch
 - 5K run or walk - Course already mapped out
 - Crowder College or Neosho High School
 - Need activities to fill space once Bounce by Grace Tears down (evening events)
 - Free throw / 9 Square or other related activities
 - Chelsey Davenport
 - Explorium Science Center
 - Amazium Mobile Program?
 - Art Feeds Bus?

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Fall Festival October 3, 2026 PLANNING:

- **General**
 - NEW Fall Festival LOGO
 - Will be used to promote the Festival and branding.
 - Applications for the Festival will be on-line.
 - This will go live soon.
 - All vendors from 2025 will be provided the link in an email to register early.
 - Link will be used in future promotions
 - Link will be used in Chambers APP
 - Looking to upgrade Power around the square
 - Should the Fall Festival Start at 9:00am instead of 10?
 - Need to move up opening Ceremony
 - Could add an additional Music performer.
 - 2K Sponsors get Free Booth and T-shirt
 - Make T-Shirt purchases available to booth vendors and businesses on the square.
 - Have a grant to purchase Barricades.
 - Parking Challenges
 - Should vendors be required to park “off-site” and shuttled into the square
 - Promote Bike Trails with Festivals
- **Activities:**
 - Car Show - Flagship
 - Must have a registration process and follow times given by the City.
 - Incorporate the Pancake feed stronger in the Fall Festival.
- **Music:**
 - Keep same performers or find new talent
 - Looking for High Energy Groups
 - Start working on Music for both events in January

General:

- **Board Updates:**
 - Pris Reed - New Board Member

Being no further business, motion made by Jeff Jones, seconded by Kelly Lay to adjourn at 5:24 pm, Unanimously approved.