

Report to the Board 20240812 from the Social Commission

The Social Commission produced Park Tower's Annual Independence Day Picnic on July 4th, 5:30-8:30 pm in the Party Room and on the Deck. We had 482 in attendance, 52 volunteers filling 110 volunteer positions, gorgeous weather and a spectacular fireworks display put on by our neighbors, the Saddle & Cycle Club.

We successfully led several experiments to improve the running of the event. I'll mention two. We invited volunteers, who worked during the hours of the party, to eat early at 4:30 pm so they wouldn't have to wait in line to eat. This was a very deserving perk for people who volunteered and worked so hard. And they were all very happy with the offer.

The other experiment was to present our food lines as mostly self-serve and on two sides of our buffet tables. The long line that mounted in anticipation of our 5:30 pm start time was gone in 20 minutes and never reappeared that night! Another success.

Thank you to all of our volunteers -

Nayantara Abraham – Shahid Ahmed – Lloyd Allison – Rita Allison – Jordan Amandes - Sheldon Atovsky – Neil Averick – Shalise Ayromloo – Heidi Baruch - Debbie Bell - Eve Brownstone – Sue Burke – Maggy Burnes - Gianna Consalvo – Vince DiFruscio - Sanhua Ding – Randy Everett – Marty Fiesler – David Folkes – Monique Fouant - Terry Gorman – Angela Gottschalk – Joe Guzzardo – Sheri Hodges – Askar Issayev - Jim Jardine – Catherine Kestler -Nathan Liu – John Loftus – Sherman Lundy – Ida Manning – Antje Milcke-Nickens – Martha Mills – Ann Murray – Hossain Naziri – Georgie Nowak – Mike Nowak – Michael Parrie – Elisa Pinzón-Umaña – Becky Rossof – Richard Rouse – Clare Salamon – Bob Shamo – Laela Skaer – Betty Terry-Lundy – Janis Walczak – Sharon Walker – Keren Wang – Stephen Weiss – Anne Whiting – Pam Woll – Chong Qing Wu – John Yardley

Thank you also to Tim Patricio and our Management Team, especially Vanessa Glass – Patrik Janic and our Maintenance Team, especially Dilan Malagon, Szymon Szuster and James White – Front Desk staff, especially Ken Hill, Angel Wilson and Daniel Klimczak – Security staff, especially Adonis Bell, Daniel Klimczak and Mike Dickey and to our Garage staff

The contributions of our caterer, Alicia Gellineau and her staff and of our DJ, Creagh Bennewate, round out the enormous team it takes to produce this event successfully. We are grateful also to our Park Tower neighbor, Randy Everett, for the donation of a cooler.

Fantastic photos by Keren Wang, Chong Qing Wu and Heidi Baruch are posted on Google Photos at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Y88eGRe8X1aVDa4FA>

Here is a Budget Analysis for our 2024 Independence Day Picnic

Total budget for party	\$7000.00
Total spent	\$8785.79
Total over budget	\$1785.79
Total receipts	\$2455.00

How we spent more than our budget is complicated and explained below.

First, we were under budget by a lot last year, in 2023, and I mistakenly anticipated poorly for some increases in our expenses due to inflation, fewer donations of provisions and the return of our caterer this year.

Significantly, it is very hard to predict how much of our provisions to buy based on how many people will show up on July 4th as we allow people to obtain wristbands for entrance through July 4th, 8 pm. We base how much of our provisions to buy based on the number of wristbands distributed by the end of the day June 25 and our best guesses are based on wildly contrasting figures from year to year.

Here is an analysis of wristband numbers and predicting the number of guests to expect for the most recent 3 years -

In 2022 by June 25 we had 375 people signed up and 485 showed up on July 4, a 29% increase.

In 2023 we had 277 people signed up by June 25 and 533 showed up on July 4th, a 92% increase. Also in 2023 by July 3 we had jumped from 277 on 6/25 to 403, a 45% increase and then 533 on July 4, a 32% increase in 1 day.

An aside, from 2022 to 2023 we had, on July 4, a jump from 485 to 533, a 10% increase.

As of June 25th, 2024, 225 people had signed up for the party so our caterer and I based on past years decided to buy for 500 people. We ended up with 482 attendees, a 114% increase from June 25th.

2024 count increased from 225 on June 25th end-of-day to 305 on July 1st mid-morning, a 36% increase. As occurred in 2023, we expected, then, a big jump from July 1 to July 4 but it was not as big.

In the future to better control our costs, we could cut off those permitted to attend by the June 25th date but that would not serve the purpose of our commission, to help build a sense of community by bringing people together. Happily the income generated by sales of wristbands for guests exceeds our over budgeted expenses so the Association remains the net winner.

The Social Commission has already started to discuss how to better predict how much food to buy for next year's Independence Day Picnic. We are happy to say we've been in this situation only once before in my tenure and are working to avoid it in the future. Also, you may happily observe that our income exceeds our over budget expenses.

Sincerely submitted,
Sheldon Atovsky, Acting Chair
Social Committee
Park Tower Condominium Association