

# Memo

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director  
**Date:** January 19, 2018  
**Re:** Resolution authorizing Michigan Nordic Fire Festival activities

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On your agenda for a first reading is a resolution authorizing those activities of the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival that take place in public areas.

While the festival will be largely similar to previous years, there are a couple items I would like to highlight.

The festival committee is expecting even greater turnout than in the past. This is a rapidly growing event, and online tickets have been pre-sold to attendees traveling to Charlotte from throughout the upper Midwest. And literally thousands of people are indicating their plans to visit the festival on social media. This is a point of pride for the committee, as most festivals aim to 'bring people in from out of town,' and that is something the MNFF is definitely doing.

The festival is expecting a larger number of historic re-enactors on site than in previous years, a few more vendors and more activities.

The committee has incorporated as a non-profit organization, and the events will be fully insured through a local agent, with the City named as an additional insured party.

The Saturday evening entertainment event is planned for the Masonic Temple this year. Last year, it was held at The Hall and in the adjacent parking lot. This year the festival is requesting the use of a portion of Seminary Street for the evening outdoor activities (ending at 11 p.m.).

The committee would like to thank the City Council for authorizing the consumption of alcohol at the Sledding Hill for the event, but that is not something it will be doing this year. It remains in the future plans, but there are several important logistical hurdles the organization needs to overcome before taking that on. There are also significant ancillary benefits for downtown when the festival holds events there. While the MNFF expects to outgrow the venues currently available downtown, they should be adequate for this year.