
From: Anette Hansen [abhandson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 6:30 PM
To: annedave@chorus.net; emanuel_scarbrough@excite.com; Clausius, Joe;
madelyn.leopold@gmail.com; Nancy Ragland; William Barker; Clear, Mark
Subject: Re: Orton Park Festival

To the attention of Madison Parks Commissioners and to those whom it applies,

I would like to express my concern about the Orton Park Festival continuing to be held at Orton park at the events present size and duration. I live a half block from the park and I used to look forward to attending the festival. In recent years the event has grown out of hand with expanded days and hours. It has become so loud that it sounds better from my house than the park. The lines for food and beer are so enormous that I've given up eating there and parking on my street becomes impossible. Having clients come to my home or working at home also becomes impossible. Cars have blocked my driveway making me late for work outside of my home, and drunken attendees have peed in my bushes and thrown trash in my yard.

The event is no longer the friendly neighborhood family event it used to be. According to the City's own guidelines for "Multi-day Events", Orton park is too small and in a residential neighborhood. The Madison parks guidelines exist for a reason and should be enforced. The city has plenty of larger venues/parks that could be used - even the proposed Central Park, which is just a couple of blocks from Orton park would be a better location. Another option would be to still house the aerial dance and jazz breakfast at Orton Park and put the large stage at Central Park.

The festival has not only become a nuisance for the residents, but also poses a threat to our beautiful trees in the park. As testified by various arborists, the increased weight and traffic of vendor vehicles, the stage and people over the tree roots stresses the trees and makes them susceptible to disease. We have lost several beautiful trees in recent years.

Personally I'd rather see the festival go back to being a smaller event without the huge stage and speakers, to less days and less hours - and supporting more local/regional bands. There are plenty of other neighborhood venues (Yahara Park Fest, Fete De Marquette, & Willy Street Fair) for the bigger stage, bigger name bands, etc. There has been no evidence to show that bigger is better, ie. making more money for neighborhood programs, as it requires more expenses for rentals, cleanup, and band fees. And that is not even considering the damages to the park, personal residential property damage, lost work time, or the emotional damages of pitting residents against each other in regards to holding the event.

Your sincere consideration and response is requested.

Thank you,

Anette

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* Be advised that I do not check email daily!