

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Knepp, Eric  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 5:02 PM  
**To:** Vern Stenman; Kester, Dolores  
**Cc:** Park Commission; Conor Caloia; Tyler Isham  
**Subject:** RE: Agenda Item #18 & 19 for 11/16/16: Parks Commission meeting--Mallards need to reach out to actual neighborhoods before 2017 plans are finalized or approved

Dolores - you are correct that the meeting is tonight at goodman maintenance facility.  
I just confirmed that Mr Stenmann will be there. i suspect these items will not be considered until at least 745.  
Sorry for the confusion .

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Vern Stenman <[REDACTED]@mallardsbaseball.com>  
**Date:** 11/16/16 4:48 PM (GMT-06:00)  
**To:** "Kester, Dolores" <[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net>  
**Cc:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>, "Knepp, Eric" <[REDACTED]@cityofmadison.com>, Conor Caloia <[REDACTED]@mallardsbaseball.com>, Tyler Isham <[REDACTED]@mallardsbaseball.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item #18 & 19 for 11/16/16: Parks Commission meeting--Mallards need to reach out to actual neighborhoods before 2017 plans are finalized or approved

Dolores,

Thanks for your comments. A couple things to note:

1 - You reference a meeting tonight in your note below. It is my understanding that, due to the cancellation of last week's Parks Commission Meeting, our request won't be heard until the Parks Commission meeting on December 14. Hopefully you can attend that meeting.


2 - The reason it is important for us to get these approvals now is to allow appropriate time for us to comprehensively plan each event we host. We need to coordinate with Police, Fire, Parks staff, neighbors and more to make all of these events safe & enjoyable for the community. The first step in us finalizing these plans is the approval of the Parks Commission, which is a public meeting and anyone is more than welcome to attend & provide comments at this meeting.



3 - We do take into account the neighbors concerns when planning all of these events. In fact, here is a quick list of things we do voluntarily that show our commitment to the neighborhood as part of our extensive planning process:

- The PA System upgrades you referenced
- Adjusting the game time of our fireworks shows to an earlier start time
- Eliminating fireworks on weeknights
- Hiring off-duty officers to control crossing on Sherman Ave
- Removing salutes (the booms) from fireworks shows
- School fundraising & reading programs

- Working with other events in the park on nights multiple events are scheduled & paying cost for additional staffing & signage on these nights
- Controlling parking at the WPCC free of charge to the city
- Saving the northside fireworks and more
- Reduce PA amplification when games go past 10pm

I truly do appreciate your comments, but we are proud of our role in the neighborhood & our continued responsiveness to it. I look forward to seeing you at the next Parks Commission meeting.

Vern Stenman  
President  
Big Top Baseball  


On Nov 16, 2016, at 3:55 PM, <@sbcglobal.net> <@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

**Hello Parks Commission members and others:**

**Thanks to Mr. Stenman for agreeing to attend our Sherman Neighborhood Association meeting in March of next year, to talk about the Mallards plans and activities for its 2017 season. Thanks also to Mr. Stenman for agreeing to reach out to other Northside neighborhood associations for the same purpose, so that many of the Mallards' neighbors will be updated about this. I do not know how others may feel, but based on my personal observation, Mallards have taken good care to clean up the park following their activities and events, and to make sure baseball fans do not park in the lot next to the Warner Center which is intended for users of the Center.**

**It is not clear why the Parks Commission should approve the Mallards 2017 schedule prior to Mallards receiving input from the community about concerns they may have, if any. This year Mallards submitted their approval request several months earlier than usual. There will be plenty of time for this Commission to consider their request for approval of 2017 plans and activities after Northside neighbors have received updates and had an opportunity to provide input about this. From my personal perspective as a resident whose home is not quite a mile south of the Mallards stadium, It is true that the new loudspeaker system put in the stadium several years ago has helped a lot in keeping the game noise down. By that I mean the noise from the announcer's voice calling the plays, and the noise from the crowd such as cheering. I am not sure about the loudspeakers' effect on noise level for other near neighbors of the stadium.**

The loudspeakers in the stadium do not control any noise outside the stadium, such as musical events, nor do they control the noise from fireworks in or near the Mallards stadium. This noise is very audible at my home and throughout the neighborhood. When the games run longer, this post-game fireworks noise has often waked me up. Typically these fireworks events at games are brief (10-15 minutes in length). This makes them much more tolerable than would be the case if they were longer in duration.

In my opinion, it is important for the Mallards and the Parks Commission not to forget that events and activities in Warner Park such as the Mallards and their fireworks are taking place in the context of a densely populated residential area. There needs to be a balance between the fans' enjoyment of these games and related activities, and the right of neighborhood residents to enjoy their homes without a constant barrage of loud noise or other intrusions into their space, such as traffic.

The Mallards and the Parks Department are to be complimented in my opinion for putting good thought and care into maintaining a proper balance in this regard, at least in the last few years. The neighbors who are members of our Sherman Neighborhood Association may have other comments or suggestions for Mr. Stenman when he attends our meeting in March.

I will try to attend your meeting this evening but am sending this to you in email form because I am battling a bad cold and am not sure my voice will hold up to making public comments aloud at the meeting.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**Dolores Kester, Co-chair**  
**Sherman Neighborhood Association**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@mallardsbaseball.com [mailto:[REDACTED]@mallardsbaseball.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 07, 2016 3:18 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]@sbccglobal.net

**Cc:** Parks Commission; ERIC KNEPP; Abha Thakkar; LARRY PALM; Tyler Isham

**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item #18 & 19 for 11/9/16: Parks Commission meeting--Mallards need to reach out to actual neighborhoods before 2017 plans are finalized or approved

Dolores,

I wanted to take a moment to address your concerns. First of all, myself, or a member of my team, are always more than willing to attend any neighborhood association meeting that we are invited to. I think the March meeting would be an appropriate time for us to come see you again. The meeting I attended last March was certainly worthwhile.

To address your concerns regarding this weeks Parks Commission meeting, I think it would be appropriate to give everyone involved a historical perspective on this process. We are obligated through our lease to provide the Neighborhood Impact plan you referenced in your email to the Parks Commission annually. We drafted the original plan and have modified annually for 7 years. For your reference, here is the language from the lease:

- k. Mallards shall submit, by March 1 of each year, an annual neighborhood impact plan to the Board of Park Commissioners addressing how the Mallards will address its impacts on the neighborhood surrounding the Ballpark, including pedestrian safety, fireworks, noise, litter and other neighborhood impacts.

As you can see, we aren't specifically obligated to go to either the NPC or any neighborhood association.

I would like to propose an amendment to the proposal we have submitted. I request that the Parks Commission approve our plan contingent upon us presenting to the interested Neighborhood Associations prior to the start of our 2017 season. We will contact each NA in the area & copy parks staff on our requests & ask that the NA confirm our appearance or otherwise to Parks Staff. I think it is important for us to get Parks Commission approval now since the lessons learned in the 2017 season are more fresh in our minds. I also think it makes more sense to meet with concerned NA groups in the spring so we can share our specific plans with them for the summer.

Now, regarding fireworks. We are not requesting an increase in 2017. We had 6 shows approved at the February 2016 PC meeting. The plan is to keep this number constant & we anticipate 2 shows on or near the 4th of July, in keeping with our plans from last year.

I thank you for your concerns & I look forward to working with you to continue to cultivate spectacular relationships with our neighbors.

Vern Stenman  
President  
Big Top Baseball  
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On Nov 7, 2016, at 12:46 PM, ██████████@sbcglobal.net wrote:

**Hello Parks Department, Parks Commission members, & Mr. Vern Stenman of the Mallards:**

**Regrettably, I must bring to your attention the email below which I sent to Parks and the Parks Commission in February of this year advising that Mallards' "neighborhood impact" plan to reach out to Northside Planning Council (NPC) for neighborhood input is inconsistent with current reality that NPC is not a legislative body and does not fulfill the role of representing neighborhoods.**

Within this context, it was surprising to find on the Parks Commission's agenda for its meeting this week on 11-9-16 that Mallards' most recent Neighborhood Impact Plan submittal again states an intention to communicate with Northside neighborhoods by "presenting at the spring Northside planning Council meeting in 2017."

Mallards should be communicating directly with Northside neighborhood associations about the impact of Mallards activities on all surrounding Northside neighborhoods. There needs to be a dialogue with neighbors about the impact of Mallards' activities on the neighbors, not merely an appearance at NPC which has no responsibility for or authority over neighborhood associations.

Our Sherman Neighborhood Association would welcome Mr. Stenman to attend one of our upcoming meetings, to bring our part of the community up to date and obtain neighborhood input about Mallards' impact. It is very possible that folks may have concerns about Mallards' plans, such as their stated intention to increase number of fireworks events in 2017 from 4 to 6 which raises concerns about noise and environmental impact, to mention only one example.

I am copying Vern Stenman on this email in case there may be an honest misunderstanding about the need to contact neighborhoods directly (rather than via NPC), and also about the need to obtain neighborhood input prior to asking the Parks Commission for approval of Mallards' activities and plans for next summer. Vern, we will be pleased to make space for you to do a presentation at our Sherman Neighborhood meeting as you did earlier this year. You could come on either January 9th or March 6<sup>th</sup> of 2017. Just let me know which date works better for you.

On behalf of our Sherman Neighborhood (and other Northside neighborhoods similarly situated), I am asking that the specifics of the Mallards' plans and activities for 2017 not be finalized and not be approved by the Parks Commission until AFTER they have informed neighborhood associations (not NPC!) about their plans and obtained bona fide community input.

Thank you,

Dolores Kester, Co-Chair

## **Sherman Neighborhood Association**

**From:** [REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net [mailto:[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:16 PM  
**To:** Parks Commission (pacommission@cityofmadison.com)  
**Cc:** 'BrentwoodVillage [REDACTED]'; [REDACTED]@yahoo.com'; Abha Thakkar  
[REDACTED]northsideplanningcouncil.org)  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item #14 for 2/10/16: PC meeting--to reach neighbors, Mallards need to reach out to actual neighborhoods, not Northside Planning Council

**Hello Parks Department, Parks Commission members, and Mr. Stenman of the Mallards:**

**Mr. Stenman's Mallards Neighborhood Impact Statement for 2016 (attached) indicates an intention to attend a Northside Planning Council (NPC) meeting in the spring to inform neighborhoods about the Mallards' plans for fireworks and other activities during the coming baseball season.**

**Please be aware that for the last several years, NPC no longer has representatives from the Northside neighborhoods. NPC is not a legislative body and does not fulfill the role of representing neighborhoods. Mallards needs to reach out to neighborhoods directly, and not assume talking to NPC is the same thing as talking to neighborhoods.**

**I am hereby inviting Mr. Stenman to attend our next Sherman Neighborhood Association meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at the Warner Park Center, or as an alternative, to make a presentation to a joint meeting of our Sherman Neighborhood Association and the Brentwood Neighborhood Association. There needs to be a dialogue with neighbors about the impact of Mallards' activities on the neighbors, not merely an appearance at NPC which has no responsibility for or authority over neighborhood associations.**

**Thank you,**

**Dolores Kester, Co-Chair  
Sherman Neighborhood Association**