

From: Jennifer Moore <jmoore3501@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: May 12, 2021 - Board of Park Commissioners Meeting - event date correction

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

For your minutes of the May 12, 2021, Board of Park Commissioners meeting, I want to clarify the correct date of the first amplified event at the new Olbrich Park Walter Street picnic shelter.

In their comments, Parks Superintendent Eric Knepp and Park Ranger Supervisor Josh Schmitt mistakenly said three times that the first event occurred on Easter Sunday. The first amplified sound event at this shelter occurred on Saturday, April 3, the day before Easter.

It would be accurate to say the event fell on Easter weekend, but it did not occur on Easter Sunday.

Thank you for noting this correction.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Moore
3501 Sargent Street
608-243-8668
jmoore3501@gmail.com

From: Jennifer Moore <jmoore3501@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Jennifer Moore <jmoore3501@gmail.com>
Subject: Public comment, May 12, 2021, Board of Park Commissioners Meeting

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I am providing a transcript of the public comment I gave at the May 12, 2021, Board of Park Commissioners meeting for your records. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on items not on the agenda.

Jennifer Moore
3501 Sargent Street
608-243-8668
jmoore3501@gmail.com

**Public Comment for May 12, 2021, Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
by Jennifer Moore, 3501 Sargent Street, Madison**

I registered to speak to request that recently allowed amplified sound permits at the brand-new Olbrich Park Walter Street picnic shelter be discontinued until the current policy and its enforcement can be thoroughly reviewed for this location. If you lived near this small picnic shelter, as we do, you would understand the urgency behind this request.

Live electronic dance music, or EDM – which emphasizes “feeling the bass” – was permitted on Saturday, April 3 and 17, continually for about 8 and 6 hours respectively, with powerful amplifiers and subwoofers stacked in 8-foot towers. Bass vibrations carried for blocks, shaking homes, rattling dishes, and triggering headaches, nausea, anxiety, and ear pain in neighbors of all ages. Pets showed signs of physical distress, such as crying, headshaking, and worse. Neighbors filed many noise complaints, some frantic. Police were called to the shelter at least three times April 17.

We have lived here for 19 years and have never filed a noise complaint before. My ears hurt for weeks afterward, and I experienced just five of the total 14 hours. I had to leave the house both times with our dog.

EDM websites urge ear protection. Long events are more likely to result in hearing loss, described as a concussion of the ears. On April 17, while in my home, I put in special earplugs that reduce noise by 33 decibels, and they did not protect my ears from the painful throbbing of the bass. Young children and pets do not have the option of ear protection.

Current Parks policy does not regulate high-intensity low-frequency bass, which affects the entire body, not just the ears. Park rangers do not have time to monitor sound levels for more than a few minutes of the 6 hours allowed.

Park rangers attempted to address concerns on April 17. They made sure amplifiers were pointed toward the lake and talked to organizers about keeping the volume down. These measures were insufficient. I am therefore asking that amplified sound permits be paused at this small picnic shelter until Park staff, neighbors, and others with expertise in this area can ensure a positive outcome. Event organizers deserve a space suited to their needs that does not unintentionally harm those living nearby. I appreciate your consideration. Thank you.