

From: Mark Richner <markrichner@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 7:50 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Concern with Additional Breese Stevens Concerts

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

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I have mixed feelings about additional Breese Stevens concerts.

The roads become dangerous during concerts. People from out of town seeking parking in the surrounding neighborhood run stop signs, park across crosswalks, drive quickly. It is dangerous for drivers, bikers, walkers, and children.

Big Top has never done anything to manage traffic along Mifflin, Brearly, Patterson, and Dayton. Adding more concerts is the wrong solution when the neighborhood concert traffic problem has never been addressed.

We live six houses from the stadium and have no driveway. Coming home from work and needing to park near Tenney Park on concert nights is the least of my concerns. Dangerous traffic is number one. What will Big Top do to help keep the neighborhood roads safe?

Please consider road and pedestrian safety when considering additional concerts.

Sincerely,  
Mark Richner  
122 N Brearly St

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**From:** Lia Vellardita <liamvell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:51 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Big Top's request for more concerts (agenda item 80226)

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To the Parks Commission members:

My family has long roots in the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood and have lived about a block away from Breese Stevens for several years. We remember Breese Stevens Field sitting dormant for years and have welcomed more use of the historic park.

While I enjoy many of the offerings of Breese Stevens Field through Big Top's contract with the City, including attending concerts, I strongly oppose an increase in concerts for several reasons.

First, there needs to be some balance for this residential neighborhood. These concerts are not held in isolation: Breese Stevens Field is hugely active. These events bring hundreds of people to them, and with that, our tiny streets are hugely congested by people driving in, with terrible traffic as many of these same people speed through the area trying to land some street parking (and many of them parking badly, over driveways, sometimes on people's lawns without permission—we've witnessed people doing all kinds of things for free parking).

I understand and accept density as Madison continues to grow and that this area has become considered an entertainment district; that said, it is still a neighborhood of residents made up of a wide range of people, young and old, those with families and those without, higher socioeconomic classes as well as more economically disadvantaged ones, renters and homeowners, etc, and the neighbors' needs for a safe, livable neighborhood must be in balance with the need Big Top has to make a profit and the need to call this an entertainment destination. (This is especially important as there are plans to welcome a women's soccer team to Breese in the coming years.)

In addition to the traffic and parking issues that occur with concerts, there is the issue of how loud they are. Of all the events at Breese, concerts are the most invasive as there is no getting away from the sound, especially if you live within a few blocks like I do. Even with all the ways one can cancel out sound (white noise, fans, etc), the sound is so loud that many times as nearby neighbors we have to just wait out the noise before being able to sleep, watch a movie, have people over, etc. When the wind really picks up, it is a wall of sound. With a Forward game, we can sometimes hear the sounds of the drums or the cheers of the fans, but it is intermittent and not disruptive, unlike concerts. Even if the concerts aren't on school nights, for many of us with younger children it means our children can't fall asleep till after the show is over (and even then we often hear many drunk folks loudly going back to their cars).

The request on the table now for up to 12 concerts means the majority of them are concentrated in the summer months—since summer is about 12 weeks long, then in theory, that is either a concert a week for the summer or two+ concerts a week in a more concentrated time period, like the month of June. That is too much. 6-7 concerts a year is enough, any more than that is an imbalance.

I'm not asking for concerts to go away, I'm asking for the number to remain as the contract is written.

If the Parks Commission takes seriously its consideration at the top of every meeting agenda "Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?"

Then it should look closely at who/what benefits most in this situation and that is not the neighborhood.

Respectfully,  
Lia Vellardita

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**From:** Matt Krueger <mattjoman@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:02 PM

**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Lia Vellardita <liamvell@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Opposition to increase in concerts at Breese Stevens Field

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

Dear Madison Board of Park Commissioners,

I live a block from Breese Stevens Field, and I strongly oppose increasing the number of 2024 concerts to twelve.

I wrote in opposition to Big Top's proposed 2023 increase to ten concerts, and my opposition to this request remains on the same grounds: negative impacts from Breese events that are regularly absorbed by the neighborhood—including traffic and parking issues, noise from concerts and late-night revelers, light pollution, litter, and safety, to name a few.

I am not opposed to a vibrant attraction such as Breese in our neighborhood; it is indeed an amenity, and I support many of the events that occur there. My family and I enjoy Forward Madison and Radicals games, farmer's markets, and movie nights. I've enjoyed and will continue to enjoy concerts at Breese.

However, it's a question of scale. I know this appears to be an isolated decision from the purview of the Park Commission—should Big Top's request for an additional five concerts be granted? But for many of us who live in the immediate vicinity of Breese Stevens, it isn't an isolated decision—it is part of a bigger and ongoing debate about the need to strike a balance between the usage of Breese as the anchor of an ever-expanding entertainment district, and the residents and families who live in the neighborhood, asking for some consideration from the city.

I don't know the exact number of days that Breese hosts amplified events where attendees are parking and driving through the neighborhood—I've heard that it's around 100 days. Assuming the field isn't used much during the five months of the cold season, essentially every other day during the warm season Breese is hosting an event. And it's now looking likely that a professional women's soccer team will be added to the mix—which is great, but means even more traffic and noise in the neighborhood.

The point is, the neighborhood is already being asked to endure a lot. We've been good sports about it, and I think pretty reasonable. But concerts are the biggest ask, without a doubt. My question is...at what point do we say "enough" with concerts? What is a sufficient amount? If twelve are granted, then the next request will inevitably go to 15, or 20. Is that too many concerts, from the purview of the Park Commission? Or from Big Top? At what point do the impacts incurred by those in the immediate vicinity outweigh the perceived benefit of Breese's usage, or Big Top's financial gain from a public amenity that

they pay very little to use?

I'm really surprised at the lack of discussion I've heard on these topics, in a city that claims to be among the most "livable" in the country. Here is one neighborhood asking for a reasonable balance in the interest of livability. We deserve at minimum a frank and transparent discussion about these costs and benefits, and assurances that our legitimate concerns have been heard and considered by city staff and decision makers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Matt Krueger

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**From:** Angela Vellardita <angela.vellardita@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 9:44 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Breese Stevens - Concert Increase Request - DISAPPROVAL

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

Hello,

I'd like to express my disapproval of Breese Stevens/Big Top Productions requesting, yet again, more concerts at Breese Stevens. I've lived in this neighborhood since 1993, and have watched it grow and flourish in amazing ways. While I do like that we're now utilizing BS for many accessible events, the ask for more concerts seems a bit excessive to me. This is a for-profit corporation that is making a lot of money while being placed on City of Madison land, and all we've done so far with them is give. We give up our parking, our peaceful neighborhood, our clean neighborhood that is now overrun with garbage and bottles from people leaving the venue. It's disheartening to watch as our neighborhood veers towards no longer a family-friendly neighborhood, but simply of businesses and high-rises that are outrageously priced and edge out those who can't afford the rent. We no longer have parking on our streets from everyone driving in to see the event, and those who do live here have to deal with people parking over our driveways and then if/when that car gets towed, an angry patron wants to demand why their car was towed.

Our neighborhood has given enough to BS/BT, can we just stop with the asks from them? At what point will the number of events there be enough for them? At what point is it too much for the neighborhood and people decide to leave? Please consider NOT APPROVING their ask for more concerts. We deal with enough, we want to balance the peace in our neighborhood so that those of us who live here and deal with the neighborhood after/before an event can live in some semblance of peace.

Thank you,

Angela Vellardita

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**From:** Timothy Meisenheimer <tmeisenheimer@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 9:46 AM

**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** More concerts at Breese Stevens Field

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

Hi All,

I am a long-time TLN resident, and have been at my current address about eight years in the 1000 block of E Dayton St. I enjoy living in the Tenney Lapham neighborhood and am glad to have Breese Stevens and all its liveliness and events as a neighbor.

I am wholly opposed to granting Big Top the right to have more concerts: Big Top is not a good neighbor. Big Top does not follow the rules in the current operating agreement, and forces neighbors and residents to complain before they address issues. I have sent countless emails and texts over the years when the volume has exceeded allowable limits; I get polite and timely responses that they will address the issue ASAP; this is backwards. Why are they allowed constantly to violate the contract/operating agreement?

If the Board of Park Commissioners is intent on granting more concerts, the City should be negotiating better terms for affected residents. A short list: no more amplified "warmup music," for any high school sporting events (this can sometimes be louder than concerts and last for hours); no more amplified practice time music; no more amplified pregame music for any events (for some of the FC Madison matches this starts three hours before the match itself); weeknight (Sunday through Thursday; using "school nights" in their language is disingenuous on Big Top's part) concerts should end at 9:00, not 10:00; a Big Top representative should be required at the sound board through every part of the load in, sound check and concert; a way to hold Big Top accountable if they violate any terms of their contract and operating agreement.

Most of the TLN residents like having the stadium and the stadium shows; many of us dislike the cavalier and entitled attitude that Big Top brings to their management of the stadium and the shows. They use a City of Madison facility to make money for themselves. They should be held to a much higher standard than they currently are.

Thank you,  
Tim Meisenheimer  
1024 E Dayton St

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**From:** Madeline Stone Kutis <madeline.stone.kutis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 10:57 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 28 - Writing in support of concerts at Breese Stevens

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

Hello all,

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support of agenda item 28, the proposal to have 12 concerts a year at Breese Stevens field.

I live on the 1200 block of E Mifflin, and few things bring me more joy than walking past Breese the night of an event. I am so proud of my neighborhood being a fun destination for many different kinds of visitors. It's why I wanted to stay in this neighborhood when I first moved to an apartment here, and it's why I wanted to stay in the neighborhood when I was looking for a house.

Breese is a rare venue that is accessible by bike, foot, public transit, and car. I've seen soccer games, concerts, gone to the farmer's market - even watched the Women's World Cup game on the big screen, which was such a fun and unique experience. I invite friends into town for Breese events and they are always impressed. It is such an asset to the neighborhood and to Madison.

Even when the events aren't things I personally like or enjoy, it is clear to see the positive impact these events have on our neighborhood and our community. Part of living together with different types of people, families, and households is supporting a variety of events to host in the place we share, and I would love for my neighborhood to continue to be a place for lots of different kinds of people to connect.

Thank you for the time!

Madeline Stone Kutis  
1233 East Mifflin Street