



To: City of Madison Board of Parks Commissioners
From: Vern Stenman, Big Top Events
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020
RE: Independence Day Celebration Options

Board of Parks Commissioners,

I'm writing today to start a dialogue about our planning for potential events surrounding plans for celebrating Independence Day this year. Prior to the pandemic, we were in the midst of figuring out our options for an event and that effort has been put on hold.

We had been investigating the possibility of a smaller scale ticketed event at Breese Stevens Field on July 3. The event would have featured low volume live music along with a small-scale pyrotechnics display launched from the rooftops of several buildings surrounding Breese and from inside Breese. We anticipated making the event ticketed and had been planning on 3,000-5,000 attendees inside the stadium, as well as assuring there were ample free viewing options surrounding Breese in both Reynolds Park, Lapham School and other parks in the area. We already received support for this concept from the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association as part of our investigation of the possibility.

Obviously, the uncertainty created by the pandemic will not allow us to finalize any plans for a new event at this time. At this point, we are actually considering several options including doing the event on July 3 with a limited capacity at Breese, postponing an event like this until later in the year when larger groups may be allowed to gather, or possibly hosting the event at one of several other locations completely.

We'd like to request approval from the Board to launch the pyrotechnic display from inside Breese on any date prior to May 1, 2021, with the understanding that we notify the Parks Superintendent and the Alders in the area of the date and all details around the event as they are finalized. Also, we are continuously working with Public Health Madison and Dane County to understand how guidelines are being interpreted and will not schedule any events without their full endorsement of our final plan.

Thanks for your support, patience and understanding during these difficult times.

Regards,

Big Top Events
President