

June 12, 2013

To: Madison Parks Department and Board of Park Commissioners

Re: **Pontoon Porch Request for Olin Park pier usage**

It would not be in the public interest to allow Pontoon Porch to have a lease from the city to use the public boat launch facility in Olin Park as a base for its operations.

During the summer 2012 the Pontoon Porch was often moored near the Olin Boat Launch and the mouth of Wingra Creek. This rather large and ugly commercial boat detracts from the enjoyment of park users by this almost continuous mooring so close to the park and being part of the view park users get of the lakeshore and of the Isthmus across Lake Monona.

It was a big disappointment last summer to kayak down Wingra Creek and enter Lake Monona and see this big ugly floating business moored there. I used to be able to enter the lake and see a wonderful view of the Isthmus. Now I have to paddle past this unsightly floating business platform before I can enjoy the views.

During 2012 Pontoon Porch illegally used the Olin Park boat launch to engage customers and transact business. The Olin boat launch is one of the two busiest public boat launches on Lake Monona and it's parking facilities are often maxed out. Often all the boat launch piers are in full use and there are queuing lines of boaters waiting to get in or out of the lake. Adding a commercial business use of this public boat launch will diminish the capacity of the launch facility to handle the heavy use it gets.

In reading the Pontoon Porch business plan and proposed permit agreement with the city I see nothing about limits to the amount of alcohol a person can bring on board and consume during a Pontoon Porch excursion. Excess alcohol consumption is a leading cause of personal injury and death on our lakes. Furthermore, some of these over-inebriated people will in all probability get in their cars and drive away from the park and through our neighborhoods, drunk.

The proposed agreement between Pontoon Porch and the city does not give any detail on any amplified sound level limitations other than stating that the amplified sound will be turned off when the boat approaches the dock. I do not know if Madison noise ordinances apply to boats out on any of the city's lakes. If not, something needs to be done about this.

Already twice this year I have heard loud music coming from other boats in the middle of Lake Monona. Once when I was in Turville Park and once when I was in Law Park. The music was turned up very loud in both instances. I am concerned that this party boat will cruise along the Olin-Turville shoreline and disrupt those attempting to seek solitude in Turville and be an annoyance to people who are picnicking or have reserved the pavilion in Olin Park.

All this outdoor amplified music our neighborhoods and our park visitors are increasingly getting forced to listen to detracts from our quality of life. The city noise ordinance really needs to be updated. No amplification should be allowed over 65 dB at a distance of 100 feet from the source. If individual people want the music louder an event organizer can use wireless technology to broadcast the music source wirelessly at the event and then those who want can blow their ears out with their smart phones and ear buds.

Sincerely,

Ron Shutvet
Madison WI