

From: Eva Lewandowski <elewandowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 4:16 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: comment on extended hours at McPike Park

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Hello,

I am writing about item 82582, the request for the Fete de Marquette hours to be extended until 11pm. I believe this is too late to operate a loud music festival directly across from the hundreds of people who live on East Wilson (including me). The amplified noise is already so loud that there is nothing I can do to block it out. To avoid a migraine, I must spend the entire festival shut into my bathroom, which is the most interior spot in my apartment. I then use ear plugs, noise cancelling headphones playing white noise, an additional white noise machine, and a fan. Even still I can still hear the beat of the music. Having to put up with that until 11pm is just too much.

To make matters worse, I cannot trust the schedule given by the festival organizers, so I cannot make plans to stay elsewhere during festival hours. Last year, on July 13, the first day of the festival, the organizers brought in a 7 piece instrumental band called Soul Express to play beginning at 5am! Yes, 5am- before the sun was even up. This was despite the fact that their Park Event Application clearly listed their set up hours as beginning at 9am and the music hours beginning at 4pm.

They didn't even have them playing in a tent, instead setting them up right on the lawn with absolutely no sound barrier between the musicians and those of us who live directly across the street. You can watch a media clip of this happening at <https://www.wmtv15news.com/2023/07/13/la-fte-de-marquette-returns-madisons-east-side/>. This was on the 5am broadcast; notice how dark it is even with the flood lights the tv crew brought in.

I was shocked by such a flagrant disregard not just for the event permit process but for the people in the neighborhood who already struggle to handle all of the downsides to the festival.

I don't think event organizers should be allowed to do whatever they want, whenever they want, regardless of the impact to others. Right now, that is what it seems is happening. Can any guarantees be made that this year will be different?

Thank you,

Eva Lewandowski