

From: Kelly Slack <kelly@slackattack.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 9:52 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Boetcher Dave <dboetcher@ibew159.org>
Subject: Holiday Fantasy in Lights / Bikes - email for meeting 3/12 pm

You don't often get email from kelly@slackattack.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Hello Madison Parks-

I just wanted to share a note about the past car-free event at Holiday Fantasy in Lights. In 2023 the 3rd car-free event had close to 1000 people, the first with a larger crowd. We observed multiple individuals sitting on displays, caught one climbing the capitol display etc. We had a group of bikers drinking in the park. These visitors also did not travel the loop correctly – going backwards out the tunnel and bypassing the exit booths.

This event created in 1989, was designed for visitors in cars – not leaving the road. It appears that if we take the vehicles out of the equation the visitors feel that they can interact with the displays which is not the case and not safe.

Last year one night we observed a group of about 30 bikers (Cap city group) visit the park and co-exist with the cars as usual. This group was respectful, well lit, enjoyed the loop traveling through as intended. They stopped for two brief photos – did not disrupt traffic or touch a display. This is how the bike community can safely enjoy the event: in smaller groups, obeying road rules as cars would.

The Electrical Workers local 159 will not allow a car-free event again. They feel it is not safe. They also do not intend to restructure the event. The event currently welcomes close to 80,000 vehicles each year- and is always free.

Thank you for allowing the Electrical Workers local 159 to provide this community event in a beautiful Madison park. The Electrical Workers take great pride in providing this gift to the community– for over 35 years now. This event has become a generational tradition that all can enjoy for free.

Kelly Slack

<https://linktr.ee/slackattack>

608-239-7888 text is best

