

From: Erik Meitner <emeitner@charter.net>  
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 8:59 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Memorial Mile

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Respected Parks Commissioners:

I can't think of a more fitting memorial than that which Veterans for Peace creates every year in Olbrich Park. It's not art. It's not sculpture. It's a true representation of the scale of the loss endured during war. Any movement made by the city and/or parks department that would prevent this act of remembrance would be held suspect.

The parks department must find a way to continue the tradition of this fitting memorial.

Erik Meitner

114 N Marquette St, Madison

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From: bvedder <bvedder@charter.net>  
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 3:11 PM  
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Save our Memorial Mile

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Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to allow putting up the signs for the Memorial Mile along Olbrich Ave. in May. This is a public presentation to commemorate the lives lost during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It is not an arts display.

Thank you,

Barbara Vedder  
2314 E. Dayton St.  
Madison, WI 53704

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**From:** Bonnie Block <blb24@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:24 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** The Memorial Mile

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Dear Members of the Park Commission;

I am writing to strongly oppose any policy changes that would mean that the Veterans for Peace could not set up the annual Memorial Mile to commemorate Americans who have been killed in our country's many wars. It is critical that we recognize the carnage war causes and that we remember those whose lives were taken.

I can think of absolutely no reason for you to oppose such a beautiful commemoration!

Bonnie Block  
2237 Fox Avenue  
Madison, WI 53711

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**From:** Barbara Olson <barbieolson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:42 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Please issue the Special Events permit to Vets for Peace for the Memorial Mile

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Dear Commissioners,

As a life-long resident of Madison who grew up during the Vietnam War, I was really distressed to hear that you are considering not giving Madison Vets for Peace permission to put up their Memorial Mile display this year.

This event has gone on since 2007, and there is **no good reason** why it can't happen again while you develop your new policy on artwork in the parks.

This is not really "art" at all but a somber display to remember soldiers and so many other killed and injured in wars. Certainly you must realize that such pro-peace activities are part of Madison's DNA and have wide popular support. Approve the permit.

Thank you,  
Barbara Olson  
221 Glacier Drive  
Madison WI 53705  
608-827-6344

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**From:** Cassandra Dixon <chrepairs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:04 PM

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

**Subject:** Please allow the special events permit for the Vets for Peace Memorial

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

Hello, I am writing to ask you to please grant Madison Vets for Peace their Special Events permit to set up the Memorial Project on May 25 at Olbrich Park as they have done since 2007.

This is a respectful display that is meaningful to many of with family members who are veterans, and many of us would be saddened to see it cancelled. It is part of how we honor Memorial day and has been an respected part of the holiday in Madison for many years. My own father, who was a world war two veteran, has passed away, but he would be appalled to think that the permit might be denied, and I myself would also be deeply hurt should the parks commission not allow this memorial to those we have lost, especially since many of our loved ones suffered greatly in the belief that their suffering would never be repeated.

There is no reason why this cannot be done while the Commission develops a new policy regarding artwork in the parks, especially since this is a somber display to remember soldiers killed in war and not "art".

Thank you for your consideration,

Cassandra Dixon

[Chrepairs@gmail.com](mailto:Chrepairs@gmail.com)

608-445-0357

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**From:** Mark Bauman <msbauman57@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2024 9:10 AM

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

**Subject:** Madison Vets for Peace Memorial Mile

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

Hello Parks Commission,

I heard that the Madison Parks Commission is considering not permitting the Veterans for Peace to install the Memorial Mile in Olbrich Park on May 25th. **Please reconsider!** This is an important and successful community display since 2007. Dozens of community members volunteer to do the set-up and take-down work. Hundreds/thousands visit it. There has been tremendous public support as shown by the many pages of comments from past years.

The Memorial Mile was not created as a piece of art. It was created as a community/public memorial to US service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and following upon community

sentiment, is seen as a memorial to all killed in war --visitors have talked about grandfathers and fathers, and wars from WW2, Korea, and Vietnam.

Thank you for considering,  
Mark Bauman

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**From:** Janet Parker <janetparker8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2024 1:28 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; John Fournelle <jhfour@gmail.com>; Steve Books <Books24U@aol.com>; Bradley Geyer <geyerb@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** thank you and please permit the Memorial Mile exhibit

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Hello friends on the Parks Commission and Parks Superintendent Knepp -

First, I just finished reading Trish O'Kane's marvelous book *Birding to Change the World!* Thinking of all of you strong parks commissioners, and parks administrators, with much gratitude. I was a Madison parks commissioner when Trish and others at Wild Warner were beginning their vital work. I'm so glad that the Warner Park experiences of birds and the people are getting national attention!

I am a war abolition activist, with [Madison for a World BEYOND War](#). I'm writing today to ask that the Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile exhibit at Olbrich Park be permitted this year. It's such an important reminder for our community of the brutal costs of war. Please do what's needed to allow the installation to happen, as it has since 2007.

And lastly, an invitation ... please join us for an exhibit and programs coming up next Tuesday through April 22! It's called [Waging Peace in Vietnam: U.S. Soldiers and Veterans who Opposed the War](#). There will be films, talks and concerts about the Vietnam war resisters that show us a way forward to ending the brutal wars our government is funding now.

Many thanks and let's work together to end war,  
Janet

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Janet Parker

[Madison for a World BEYOND War](#)

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**From:** Judy & Amy <judithandamy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2024 2:12 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Honoring veterans we've lost

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

Parks Commissioners,

Please grant Madison Vets for Peace their Special Events permit to set up the Memorial Project on May 25 at Olbrich Park as they have done since 2007.

There is no reason why this cannot be done while the Commission develops a new policy regarding artwork in the parks.

This somber display honors those we've lost. It is much more than art, if it can be considered art at all. It's an important reminder for all us. It needs to stay.

Thank you.  
Judith Howard

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**From:** Steve Davis <sdavis33e@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2024 3:33 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:**

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

I support the Vets For Peace Memorial mile. Please make it possible to continue it this year. Steve Davis  
madison, Wisconsin

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**From:** Casa Maria Catholic Worker <casamariamke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2024 6:06 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Veterans for Peace

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

Hello we are praying that you grant the Madison Veterans for Peace their Special Events permit to set up the Memorial Project on May 25 at Olbrich Park as they have done for over 15 years. There is no reason why this cannot be done while you develop a new policy regarding artwork in the parks, especially since this is a somber display to remember soldiers killed in war and not art. We are praying 🙏🙏🙏 that you don't disrespect these veterans who are trying to make the world a better place. Thank you.

Michael Komba  
Casa Maria Catholic Worker Community

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**From:** Mark D Ediger <ediger@chem.wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 30, 2024 9:05 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile

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

Hello Parks Commission,

As a long time resident of Madison, I want to strongly urge you to allow the Madison Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile display at Olbrich Park, in May 2024.

Each year, I help to set up this display, even though I am not a veteran. As we set up the display, many cars drive by honking and waving their support. This is an important event that appeals to Madisonians from across the political spectrum, as it simultaneously honors fallen veterans and makes a dramatic visual statement about the cost of war.

I would make these important points:

1. Madison Veterans for Peace has requested a special events permit to set up the Memorial Mile in Olbrich Park on May 25. They were told it will not be permitted "until a new art work policy has been decided" (which could be months away.) Why not continue the old protocol and allow it, at least in 2024, until Parks decides upon a "new art" policy? What's the rush to change the previous policy?
2. The Memorial Mile has been a successful community resource (or display) since 2007. (Last installed May 2022; not in 2023 due to construction.) Dozens of community members volunteer to do the set-up and take-down work. Hundreds/thousands visit it. There has been tremendous public support as shown by the many pages of comments from past years, emailed to members of the parks commission.
3. It was not created as a piece of art. It was created as a community/public memorial to US service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and following upon community sentiment, is seen as a memorial to all killed in war --visitors have talked about grandfathers and fathers, and wars from WW2, Korea, and Vietnam.
4. The Parks Commission has the authority to have the special events permit granted for the 2024 Memorial Mile.

By the way, Madison has great parks. Thanks for all the work that you do!

Mark Ediger  
2731 Mason Street

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**From:** Jocelyn Milner <jocelyn.milner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 30, 2024 11:04 AM

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

**Subject:** Please support special event permit for 2024 Memorial Mile

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

Hello Parks Commission,

As a resident of Madison for 36 years, I write to urge you to allow the Madison Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile display at Olbrich Park in May 2024.

Each year, I have helped to set up this display, even though I am not a veteran. As we set up the display, many cars drive by honking and waving their support. This is an important event that appeals to Madisonians from across the political spectrum, as it simultaneously honors fallen veterans and makes a dramatic visual statement about the cost of war. It is an important annual part of our Memorial Day recognition events.

I would make these important points:

1. Madison Veterans for Peace has requested a special events permit to set up the Memorial Mile in Olbrich Park on May 25. They were told it will not be permitted "until a new art work policy has been decided" (which could be months away.) Why not continue the old protocol and given the awkward timing of the policy, allow it in 2024?
2. The Memorial Mile has been a successful community resource (or display) since 2007. (Last installed May 2022; not at that location in 2023 due to construction.) Dozens of community members volunteer to do the set-up and take-down work. Hundreds/thousands visit it. There has been tremendous public support as shown by the many pages of comments from past years, emailed to members of the parks commission. It has been an important way for me to acknowledge the cost of war for these soldiers and their families.
3. The Memorial Mile is not created to be a piece of art. It was created as a community/public memorial to US service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and following upon community sentiment, is seen as a memorial to all killed in war --visitors have talked about grandfathers and fathers, and wars from WW2, Korea, and Vietnam.
4. The Parks Commission has the authority to have the special events permit granted for the 2024 Memorial Mile. I hope you will exercise your authority to grant permission for this important event.

In closing, I want to convey my appreciation for all you do to make Madison parks such a wonderful resource for the community. These spaces are part of what makes Madison a great place to live.

Jocelyn Milner  
2731 Mason Street

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**From:** Ellen Magee <ellenmageekayaks@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 30, 2024 9:20 PM

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

**Cc:** Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Vets for Peace Memorial

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

The Vets for Peace Memorial is a tradition that means a lot to me. It is always deeply meaningful and moving and having it along a highly traversed avenue gives it high impact. Our city leaders and representatives have designated our city as a place of peace. Please support the continued use of Olbrich Park for the memorial installation.

Thank you, Ellen Magee, Madison resident

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**From:** Benjamin Ratliffe <bratliffe@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2024 8:58 AM

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

**Subject:** Support Vets for Peace events permit

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

Greetings,

I've just learned that Madison Veterans for Peace has requested a special events permit to set up the Memorial Mile in Olbrich Park on May 25. They were told it will not be permitted "until a new art work policy has been decided" (which could be months away.)

Why not continue the old protocol and allow it, at least in 2024, until Parks decides upon a "new art" policy? What's the rush to change the previous policy?

I urge you to grant Madison Vets for Peace their Special Events permit to set up the Memorial Project on May 25 at Olbrich Park as they have done since 2007. There is no reason why this cannot be done while the Commission develops a new policy regarding artwork in the parks, especially since this is a somber display to remember soldiers killed in war and not "art".

Thank you,

Benjamin Ratliffe

AFSCME Local 171

[bratliffe@gmail.com](mailto:bratliffe@gmail.com)

608-358-6822

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**From:** Demurer Tundra <demurertundra52@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2024 10:07 AM

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

**Subject:** Madison Vets for Peace Memorial

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

Dear Madison Parks Commission,

Please grant Madison Vets for Peace their special events permit to set up the Memorial Project on May 25th at Olbrich Park as they have done so since 2007. There is no reason why this cannot be done while



the Commission develops a new policy regarding artwork in their parks. Especially as this is a somber display to remember soldiers killed in war and no "art"

Thank You,  
Nicholas Winklbauer

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**From:** Brian Lavendel <blavendel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2024 1:17 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Memorial Mile and Veterans for Peace

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

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I am writing in strong support of the Veterans for Peace Memorial Mile. I urge you to grant the permit for 2024 and allow this special use into the future.

I live about a 10 minute walk from Olbrich Park and over the years have found the Memorial Mile to be a powerful, meaningful monument to the horrifying human costs of war. In fact, after many years of witnessing and appreciating the memorial and being moved by its message, I became a volunteer to help uninstall the monument after its display.

Please know that this monument was not created as a piece of art. It is a community/public memorial to US service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in my mind and that of many other residents, is seen as a memorial to all killed in war. Again, I urge you to grant the permit and allow this special use into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Community,  
Brian

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**From:** David Newby <newby4338@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:35 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** MEMORIAL MILE

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

I strongly support the installation again this year. We owe this to our veterans!

David Newby  
6225 Mineral Point Rd, Madison, WI 53705

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**From:** B.E. Smith <conlonsmithbe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:35 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Save "Memorial Mile" in Madison Parks

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

Dear Parks Commission:

Please approve the "Memorial Mile" exhibit in Madison Parks. It is a tradition, and a positive one.

It is important to do all we can to promote the survival of the human species - right now. This cannot wait. The "Memorial Mile" educates us about the recent past. We need this to avoid disaster.

Americans need reminders of basic facts of history, that is why the Memorial Mile is necessary. Recently the [New York Times](#) ran a series of opinion articles on nuclear war called "At the Brink," but there was just a passing mention that the U.S. is the only country that has used the A-bomb in war. If the newspaper of record glosses over this fact, there is clearly a role for the Madison Parks Commission and others to fill in the historical gaps.

Our neighbors may be gullible and if they do not know history, and may allow misguided leaders to lure us into a nuclear exchange. A few days ago, Michigan Congressman Walberg suggested that Israel, a nuclear power, bomb Gaza like "Hiroshima and Nagasaki." This is happening in a context where our country cancelled the nuclear treaty with Iran, bombed **Suleimani** during the Trump Administration, and just this week bombed Iranian figures with diplomatic status in Syria. Actions like this bring us closer to nuclear confrontation. Ukraine and Russia, are fighting around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant. Let us do everything we can this instant to counterbalance these actions that threaten the future of humanity.

Please approve the Memorial Mile's Special Events permit.

Sincerely,  
Barbara E. Smith  
456 N. Few St.  
Madison WI 53703

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**From:** Harry Richardson <richardsonharry348@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 2:38 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Approve Vets for Peace Memorial Mile.

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Greetings,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to approve the Vets for Peace Memorial Mile installation. I have attended each Memorial Mile event since the first in 2007. This project is an important display for peace and honoring our veterans.

It is more important than ever as we witness two wars abroad that have had devastating loss of life for civilians, in Gaza and Ukraine. We are in the midst of another contentious presidential campaign, where events like the one sponsored by Vets for Peace are more vital than ever to remind us of how much we have in common as human beings and Americans.

This permit should be granted now, there is no reason to wait until the board develops a new arts policy. This is not really an "art display" but a temporary display to honor our vets and the cause of peace.

Sincerely,  
Harry Richardson  
456 N Few St.

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**From:** Elliot Stokes <elliotsaacstokes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 2:55 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Vets for PEACE memorial project

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

PLEASE GRANT Madison Veteran's for Peace their Special Events permit to set up the Memorial Project on May 25 at Olbrich Park. Vets For Peace has done this since 2007. There is no reason why this cannot be done while the Commission develops a new policy regarding artwork in the parks. This project is a timely and somber display to remember soldiers killed in war and needs to be recognized as such. Elliot I. Stokes  
[elliotsaacstokes@google.com](mailto:elliotsaacstokes@google.com)

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