

From: Nancy Marshall <nrmarsall@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:58 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Pursuit of Happiness Festival Support Letter

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

Dear Madison Parks Long Range Planning Committee:

Thank you for your service on this important committee.

As a longterm Isthmus resident (23 years) who has benefited immeasurably from the quality of life Madison creates, in part through its free volunteer festivals in its community city parks like McPike, I would like to speak in favor of the extra hour of time for the Pursuit of Happiness Festival for June 16 and 17 this year. This is to accommodate two comedy shows, which are not amplified and have a much lower decibel level than the music, which ends earlier in the evening. After the show on Saturday, Bob Queen's experienced take-down crew will work efficiently but safely to dismantle complex electronic and musical equipment without damaging it, and it is essential that they are not rushed in this process; they must be allowed to take the time necessary to remove the stage and equipment.

I do not believe there is any record of noise complaints after hours at the Pursuit of Happiness festival, but it does seem important to ensure a swift departure of all guests at the end of the evening. I am on the McPike Park Sessions Board this year and I also volunteer at these events, so I would personally be willing to take this charge in hand.

Please also be willing to investigate whether there is truly a groundswell of community discomfort with the Pursuit of Happiness or if complaints are coming from one or two people only. In a democracy, unfortunately, everyone needs to be heard but not everyone can get their way, and I am certain that this event brings more happiness, as its name suggests, than unhappiness—not to mention numerous additional people coming in to our downtown to partake of other businesses and services. This and other events like it are why so many people want to move into our burgeoning housing stock.

Finally: This important festival is not only entirely volunteer but it also benefits our community in other ways than pure free enjoyment: proceeds are donated to the following groups:

Urban League
Centro Hispano
Community Immigration Law Center
Native Food Network
WORT FM
Friends of Ukraine, Madison

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nancy Rose Marshall
Evjue Bascom Professor, Art History Department
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Pat Martin <patmartin_3@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:32 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support for 11 pm closing for the Sessions at McPike Park on August 11 and 12.

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Pat Martin
Madison, WI 53704
608-770-1609

609 Miller Ave

Board of Park Commissioners
Madison, Wisconsin

I have been an East Side resident since 1983, living in the Schenk-Atwood neighborhood for most of those years. My decision to live, raise a family and run a small family-owned business with my husband in this neighborhood, is based on the qualities of sustainability, walkability and elevated quality of life that I enjoy from being a part of this vibrant and interesting neighborhood.

On a personal level, my family has attended many events organized by Bob Queen. I have always been impressed with the quality and diversity of musical acts he has brought to Madison. When he included a comedy tent for one of his events, I was so pleased. Laughter is an essential part of life and I thought it was so wonderful to have access to a free comedy event. I have enjoyed the shows and look forward to attending more!

On a professional level, our company, Martin Glass, has been a sponsor of The Sessions for several years. We have been a part of this neighborhood for over 45 years. We are strong supporters of the community and are very proud to support The Sessions.

I support Bob Queen's request for a permit allowing an 11:00pm closing for the Sessions at McPike Park, on August 11 and 12, 2023. This support comes both as a private individual and as a member of the business community.

Sincerely,
Pat Martin

From: William White <wfwhite930@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2023 1:07 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Bob Queen <madmax406@gmail.com>
Subject: I support Bob Queen's request

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I support Bob Queen's request for additional time to run the event. I'm currently in Whidbey Island near Seattle which is why I cannot state why the additional time would not be a problem. I live next to Breese Steven's field and the fact that Bob Queen has requested additional time is a plus. I support the request. William White

From: Paul Nichols <pdnichols@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 12:36 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Sessions at McPike 1 Hour Extension Request for 8/11 and 8/12

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

My name is Paul Nichols and I have volunteered at the Sessions at McPike since its inception. My primary tasks have been with event set-up/tear down and logistics.

I support the 1 hour extension to 11pm for the Sessions comedy shows on Aug 11 and Aug 12.

I have sent detailed tear down/clean-up time frame info to the Sessions at McPike Park Board of Directors which they will send to you or present at the May 17th Board of Commissioners meeting.

I have served for many years as the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Event Representative for the Sessions at McPike and am listed as the Primary Contact on Sessions Park Application/Contract.

In viewing the April 19th Commissioners meeting, one of the speakers mentioned "lots of drunk people in their front yard" after a Session event.

In the 14 years that I have been overseeing the operations of the Sessions, I have never witnessed an intoxicated person during our event or after the event closes. As Primary Contact rep for the event, I am in close contact with our contracted MPD officers through out our events. I have never seen the officers confront, nor have I requested them to intervene with an intoxicated individual or deal with any type of disturbance during or after any of our events. I am often at the park until 1-1:30am quietly finishing my tasks and working with our overnight security. Over the years, I have witnessed groups of people and individuals, some of them very animated and loud, walking home on E. Wilson and on Ingersoll St from the several nearby bars and clubs. These folks are not coming from a Sessions event.

As to the issue of the one hour extension of time requested on 8/11 and 8/12 for the Comedy Show impacting the clean-up/tear down:

The comedy show ending at 11pm on Aug 11 does not impact the Sessions clean-up of the Park. There is no tear down as all the equipment remains in place for the show on 8/12 and clean-up goes quickly with folk leaving before midnight.

The Comedy Show ending at 11pm on 8/12 only delays the clean-up and tear down of the comedy tents portable stage and sound system. If that equipment is contracted for another event on Sunday the 13th, it must be removed on 8/12. The main stage, food vendors and grounds clean-up crew start tear down/clean-up at 10pm and are gone by the time our street closure permit ends at midnight.

regards paul

From: Cindy Cudworth <wildrosebun@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comedy night for the Sessions at m like Park

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Hello,

I have been helping my partner David Day with the coordination of the beer sales for as many years as the Sessions have been a thing. I will admit it gets quite loud with the music playing and the fans dancing.

We always shut the beer down about 9:50 and take the handles off of all of the beer spigots' so no more pour no matter how nicely (?) they ask. While finishing our duties I've never heard any disruption from the Comedy tent. People clear out quickly unless heading over for some chuckles.

After getting everything locked down and cleaned up we mosey over to the Comedy tent for some much needed comic relief. Certainly for the last 5 years I have not witnessed loud or rowdy behavior. I'm hoping that this enjoyable tradition continues.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Cindy Cudworth

David Day
Crystal Corner Proprietor

From: Paul Nichols <pdnichols@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:06 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: May 17th Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item #13

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Greetings

I support the one hour extension to 11:00pm for the Sessions at McPike comedy shows on Aug 11 and Aug 12 with amplified sound inside the tent at no more than 72db 150 ft from the source and beer sales ending at 10pm on both nights.

thank you Paul Nichols 1848 Yahara Place Madison, WI

From: Bob Queen <madmax406@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:56 PM

To: Ryan, CJ <CRyan@cityofmadison.com>; Post, Kelly <KPost@cityofmadison.com>; Thompson, Terrence <TThompson@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Fwd: In Support of the Sessions at McPike Park

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To all. FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Park Central Apartments** <parkcentral@stonehousedevlopment.com>

Date: Mon, May 1, 2023 at 3:57 PM

Subject: In Support of the Sessions at McPike Park

To: madmax406@gmail.com <madmax406@gmail.com>

Hello!

I have managed the Park Central Apartments, directly across from McPike Park, since we opened our doors 15 years ago. Over the years we have watched the implementation of the skate park, the East Side Farmer's Market and now annual festivals such as Fete de Marquette and the Sessions at McPike Park.

As a property manager, my biggest concern when I first learned of the impending festivals was loitering and trash on our property. I can say with confidence that neither have been an issue throughout the years. All the stages shut down promptly at 10:00 p.m. and I cannot remember the last time I received a complaint regarding anything that took place in the park. My residents love the festivals and look forward to them each summer. The vibe is always positive, people are happy, we feel safe and there is a high level of respect.

I full support the Sessions as they are a big part of what make this neighborhood so special and so desirable.

Please let me know if you would like any further information from me!

Sincerely,



Nicole Salazar
Senior Property Manager
Park Central Apartments

 (608) 256-9280

 (608) 256-9281

 parkcentralapts.net

 parkcentral@stonehousedevlopment.com

 1115 E Wilson St. Madison, WI 53703



From: Bill Scanlon <wscanlon@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 3:53 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Bill Scanlon <wscanlon@gmail.com>; Bob Queen <madmax406@gmail.com>

Subject: Sessions at McPike Park Event August 11 and August 12

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

I understand the subject event is on the agenda of your meeting this evening.

This email is to let you know I fully support the event as planned by its organizer, Bob Queen.

I ask that all of you also do so.

Thank you,
Bill Scanlon
Marquette Neighborhood Resident
616 S Ingersoll St
Madison 53703