From: Nicholas Davies
To: Plan Commission Comments
Subject: Yes to simplified entertainment licensing (88319)
Date: Sunday, June 8, 2025 4:36:55 PM

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Dear Plan Commission,

It has always seemed odd to me that, for an existing business in an existing building to start hosting live music events, they're supposed to not only get an entertainment license via ALRC, but also get conditional use approval from Plan Commission. It's my understanding that item 88319 will simplify the licensing process. I support this for a couple of reasons:

These things don't really belong on your agendas. Even if these generally stay on the consent agenda and get essentially rubber-stamped, you all presumably review all the agenda items to some extent. Plan Commission handles a lot of important issues, and I support you all being able to focus on things that warrant your time during and outside meetings.

Streamlining the approval process--while retaining opportunities for public engagement--will also support opportunities for live music in Madison, which are scarce. Live music is just not a high-margin line of business, and this means that venues for it have tenuous viability and high turnover. Lowering the administrative barrier to entry could allow more existing businesses to try out hosting live music, and increase the rate at which venues that close are replaced.

Thank you,

Nick Davies
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