

Dear Council Members,

Please read the following letter dated February 12, 2014 explaining our request to the Director of the Health Department regarding the bands at the Fox River House for the 2014 Season. This letter was signed by 8 residents of the neighborhood.

We've been trying to work with Patti Coenen regarding the loud rock bands for at least three years without success.

We didn't expect this situation to escalate to the point where there are comments being made publicly that the houses be torn down and the area be made into a parking ramp. Our family has lived in this neighborhood for 66 years and we've never had a problem before. We've had good relations with all the bar owners prior to this and we applauded Patti when she bought the bar in 2009.

What was posted on Nick Penzenstadler's FB blog was posted without being investigated thoroughly and those comments on the situation were made without the entire story regarding this matter.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Elizabeth Laux

February 12, 2014

Mr. Kurt Eggebrecht
Health Officer – City of Appleton
100 W. Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54911-4799

Dear Kurt,

It is our understanding that the noise variance of the City of Appleton was specifically written for special occasions; not multiple regularly scheduled nights just for bar business. We contend that bands playing at Fox River House Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights May through September is not only excessive, but also an abuse of the ordinance.

Therefore, we request that if a noise variance be issued to Fox River House in 2014 and future years that Fox River House be limited to one night per week of their choosing (Wednesday, Friday or Saturday – 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.) from June 15th through Labor Day. The celebration of Mile of Music would be excluded from this rule.

We request this because after the 2013 season it was obvious that Fox River House is unable to control the loudness of their bands. The noise from the bands is invasive and it is a disturbance that affects the health and well-being of those living in the neighborhood.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and if need be, we are available to speak to your Board regarding this matter.

Subject: Patti Coenen with a conflict of interest and a noise ordinance

Please open and read the note on the bottom from the PC.

I feel a need to let you know that the existing noise ordinance of 10 PM on weekends is too late for me. The thought of having it go until 11 makes me see red.

Patti Coenen claims to have an old bar. Fine, that old bar just started having outside live music. The neighbors have been there for generations. Some compromise already took place when the beer garden opened as the neighbors tried to adjust.

Patti has a definite conflict of interest between many of her constituents and her customers. She has done an excellent job of building her business and I commend her on it. I just don't hang out at bars or around loud music and neither do most folks I know.

With folks from City Hall hanging out down there since it opened, this has the potential of being a very divisive issue. It is escalating swiftly in the comments after the article. It is already getting negative PR.

On Seymour Street over the years I have heard music from LU Trever Hall, Riverview Country Club clubhouse, City Band at Pierce Park. This is not what I want. I also am very against any music by the river because it dominates the atmosphere up and down river and into neighborhoods on both sides of the river. Jones Park worked out well and the sound stays in the area. I hear Houdini in the summertime.

Patti has a very strong presence. She is very available to her customers. I wish I still had an available neutral person representing me like Joe Martin. He listened and helped me with Riverview and other issues. I am pleased with our county board supervisor Katrin Patience, whose campaign I more or less ran. She is always available and listens.

My thoughts for the day.

I would send this to Tim Hanna as well but don't have his email address. Kurt, maybe you can forward this for me please.

Thanks,

Ronna Swift

Noise is a stressor for many of us. I am speaking here as both a professional musician and a neighbor. There are elderly, babies, shift workers, all in that neighborhood. If folks can't even sit outside in their own yard and enjoy the evening or have to close their windows, a later time isn't going to work.

I say keep the 10 PM. Even that infringes on many south of the immediate downtown area.

<http://wisinfo.biz/blogs/appleton/appleton-city-notes-blog/appleton-neighbors-protest-alderwoman-owned-bar/>