

**Sonja Birr**

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**From:** Michael Cummings  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 5:29 PM  
**To:** Eric Sitkiewitz - D6; Sonja Birr  
**Subject:** Re: External: Manitowoc Aquatic Center comments

I apologize Alderman Sitkiewitz for not forwarding this on for discussion in September's meeting.

Sonja, can you please place this topic on the October schedule?

To Manitowoc's Success!

Michael Cummings  
Manitowoc D3 Alderman

On Sep 9, 2022 2:24 PM, Eric Sitkiewitz - D6 <esitkiewitz@manitowoc.org> wrote:  
Alder Cummings,

Please see email below. This didn't get on the agenda for September and would request it be addressed at the October meeting.

Thank you,

Thank you,

Eric J. Sitkiewitz

Aldersperson District 6  
City of Manitowoc  
900 Quay Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
esitkiewitz@manitowoc.org  
Phone (920) 686-1324

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 2, 2022, at 4:31 PM, Eric Sitkiewitz - D6 <esitkiewitz@manitowoc.org> wrote:

Please see below.

Eric J. Sitkiewitz

Aldersperson District 6  
City of Manitowoc  
900 Quay Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Eric Sitkiewitz - D6 <esitkiewitz@manitowoc.org>  
**Date:** August 2, 2022 at 4:28:09 PM CDT  
**To:** Bill Schlei <bschlei@manitowoc.org>  
**Cc:** Richard Luchsinger <luchblr@ameritech.net>  
**Subject:** Re: External: Manitowoc Aquatic Center comments

Greetings Alder Cummings,

Please see email below regarding the aquatic center. I would like this issue placed on your next Public Infrastructure Committee meeting. I believe that will be Wednesday September 7th. I realize that it is too late to get added for your August 3rd meeting agenda.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric J. Sitkiewitz

Aldersperson District 6  
City of Manitowoc  
900 Quay Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
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Phone (920) 686-1324

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 2, 2022, at 3:30 PM, Richard Luchsinger  
<luchblr@ameritech.net> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Sitkiewitz,

My husband recently wrote to you about the loud music from the aquatic center last year and this year. I wanted to give you a more detailed background about that. Last year was the first time a sound system was installed to provide music. When I called Curt Hall to voice my complaints about the loudness of the music, he told me a patron had donated thousands of dollars for it, because that man had taken his grandchildren to various water parks, and all of them had music playing. That man thought it would be a great addition to our aquatic center. When I requested that the music not be played so loud, Curt told me the system was "very complicated" and the volume couldn't easily be changed. I suggested to him it shouldn't be so difficult, since every sound board or sound system I'd been familiar with has had either knobs or sliders to adjust the sound. Then he said the sound had

to be at a high level so if an announcement had to be made, people in the pool, lazy river, etc., had to be able to hear it. Again, I thought it would be easy to turn down the volume for music and turn it up for an announcement. He dismissed that idea. We – and others – have called the aquatic center to complain, but nothing changes. My husband walked over and spoke with the young woman selling tickets, and she laughed at him, and said, “ Oh. The music isn’t so loud.” Of course not – not at the back of the building!

Last year was the first year of having music. I spoke with Dennis Koslowski, a retired teacher and coach with the MPSD, who had been the pool supervisor before Covid. He was incredulous when I told him there was loud music playing, giving me the impression that he thought it could distract the lifeguards and questioned the need for it.

The big problem was and is due to the speakers for the system which are mounted on the south side of the aquatic center, facing north, so the sound is projected toward Rankin Street and the residents there. I spoke to Amy Fricke after the center closed last year. I had left a message for her, since she was out of her office. She was notified of my call and promptly called me back, and said she had been told I called about the aquatic center. I said, “ Yes. I’m calling because the several neighbors across the street have just had a summer from hell.” I then explained that comment. The loud music caused problems with many neighbors. One woman, who works in Green Bay, would sit in her front yard to relax after work, reading or watching the people enjoying the pool. Weather permitting, she would be out almost every evening. Last year she was out once. She couldn’t stand the loud music. This year she never even put her lawn chair out at all. Another neighbor said he deals with the noise by closing doors and windows and turning up the sound on his tv. (Which his downstairs neighbors probably don’t appreciate.) The neighbor next door to us had a 6 month old baby, and I asked once if they had a hard time getting her to sleep for naps, and her dad just rolled his eyes. That family moved out of the city, but the family that bought that house has a 2 year old – same problem with naps. The mom has taken her several children to the pool a few times, and she told me she complained about the music because she had a hard time talking with her little one over the music. And she also has to keep her doors and windows closed due to the loud music in order to have normal communication inside. ( Her sons play softball at the park, and she told me she loves her house, the neighborhood, the park across the street .... But she didn’t know it would be so LOUD! ) A neighbor farther to the west works swing shift. She texted me a couple weeks ago, when she was on third shift, and said she couldn’t sleep. Even with all doors and windows closed she could still hear the “blankety – blank” music. (She used other words.) And last year after the pool closed, she had texted me and said, “Linda .... Do you hear that?? It’s silence! Silence!!”

As for ourselves, I had hopes after talking with Amy Fricke last year that things would be better this year. She said Extreme Audio was going to reposition speakers so they would be facing south, toward the facility instead of toward Rankin Street. Well, a couple had been repositioned, but the sound is still loud. I was hopeful during the first week and a half this summer. The music was not so intrusive, and I thought things would be great. We could still hear it softly, but it didn't cause problems. But then the volume was turned up. One of the speakers is on the new building that was added before last year, at the southwest corner of the center. That speaker faces the driveway between our house at 1818 and the house next door at 1814. That driveway serves as a tunnel and the sounds blast into our backyard. I always enjoyed sitting in the back yard, next to a small fish pond, and would read and listen to the birds. Cannot do that with the music. Also, while two speakers have been moved, others still project toward the homes. And the ones that have been moved also somehow still project to the north. I walked over one time to ask a lifeguard stationed at the lazy river ( with no one in it at the time) if someone could come across the street so they could hear how loud it is, but I had to say "excuse me" three times, progressively louder, until I was just about shouting for him to hear me. He was about 5' away.

We enjoyed the original pool, and took our daughters over many times. Our younger daughter swam in the Manitowoc Rec. Dept. swim team several years, and the team competed in meets with Valders, Kiel, Two Rivers, etc., on Saturday mornings. She and the rest of the Lincoln High also had swim team practices at that pool, at 7:00 a.m., when Lincoln's pool was undergoing renovation. And the sounds of water falling, and happy children and families were wonderful summertime sounds. Our grandson enjoyed the new center when he would visit us. We, like our neighbors, now close all doors and windows during afternoons and evenings. We've even cancelled traditional fry-outs in the back yard with friends and family because of the loud music.

Mondays are the quiet days, since there is tot swim ( no music), and then in the evening there is adult swim ( with music but not as loud). The other days, Tuesday through Sunday, the center is open from 12 to 7, 8 or later depending on extra evening events. And even after closing, the music continues while the lifeguards clean up and get everything in order for the next day.

As my husband mentioned to you, we have lived here for 50 years. We've had great neighbors and love the neighborhood. We are in our

mid and late 70s, and I recently mentioned to him that whenever/if we would consider moving, we'd have to list our home in September, after the center is closed, otherwise potential buyers might be scared off.

A solution? Turn down the volume – a sound barrier on the north fence – plant trees/ shrubs along that fence – reposition those speakers that are still aimed north? I don't know. But the situation as it is now, is not working. I know we're only a few families impacted, but after many complaints nothing has changed.

Thank you for listening.



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