



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: MadFreedom Special Use Permit for July 16th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at Battery Park to hold an event and for a waiver to allow amplified sound.

MadFreedom, Inc. is hosting their annual Vermont Mad Pride Day on Saturday, July 16th at Battery Park. This will be a celebration organized by psychiatric survivors, consumers, service users, mad people, and folks the world has labeled "mentally ill". Mad Pride is about challenging discrimination, advocating for rights, affirming Mad identities, remembering and participating in Mad history, and having fun. Our lives are valuable and need celebration. MadFreedom, Inc. is a Poultney, Vermont 501(c)(4), tax-exempt non-profit organization whose mission is to secure power and influence to end the discrimination and oppression of people based on their perceived mental state. MadFreedom envisions a world where all people, regardless of race, gender, class, ableness, and mental state have the freedom to live their lives on their own terms without coercion and with equality under the law.

This event is expected to have around 100 participants and 25 volunteers. This event will include a march from Church St. to the park, speakers, live music, spoken word poetry, skits, informational tabling and a catered meal. MadFreedom is collaborating with several other organizations to curate this event. Those organizations include Pathways Vermont, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (Montpelier), and Another Way Community Center (Montpelier). MadFreedom is anticipating that a local caterer will be providing food and will be working with the Department to ensure all vendors follow the required guidelines and go through the proper process. They are prepared to provide extra portalets and their staff and volunteers will be responsible for site clean-up. They have the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

The amplified sound will take place between 1pm and 3pm. They have already booked Battery Park.

Staff contact for the event is Wilda White.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.