



MEMO

Date: February 2nd, 2021
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden Outreach Coordinator & Customer Service Associate
RE: Burlington Burn Club Series Sound Waiver & Time Extension for the 2021 Season

Request for waiver at Battery Park to allow amplified sound from 7pm – 9pm from May 15th – October 15th and extend the reservations until 10pm for Burlington Burn Club's bi-monthly events.

From the Burlington Burn Club:

Burn Club provides a safe and legal setting for people to spin fire. It reduces the illegal backyard burns, unsafe spinning in parks and "avoiding the police" mentality that plagued the community. I fear that our reduced hours will result in "after parties" where the fire spinning just goes back to the old ways. Our community is so very respectable with our guidelines and understanding what it means to be a member and respecting the Burlington laws and regulations around burning outside of Burn Club.

Requested Schedule for 2021:

We're looking to be active from April-November for this season, though we understand the request is outside of BPRW's general permitting. We have a lot of requests from our college aged participants to have more availability that aligns with the school calendar. Our normal schedule has been 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. We are flexible if you have a day of the week that works better for PRW's schedule and are open to shifting but want to try to remain as consistent as possible with an every other week schedule. The 7-10 time frame is very positive allowing for an hour of people to skill share and enjoy company before the sun sets and having a good 1-2 hours of dark to spin fire. We understand again that this is outside of the noise ordinance of the park and want to find a good compromise, either through maintaining a low dB with our music with late hours, or amplified sound with immediate end at 9pm. With an extension of active months we gain more dark hours and are open to "soft closing" the summer months as we'd be paying for daylight hours if an after 9pm time cannot be agreed upon. Finalized Requested Schedule below:

April 8th, 2021
April 22nd, 2021
May 6th, 2021
May 20th, 2021
June 3rd, 2021
June 17th, 2021
July 1st, 2021
July 15th, 2021
August 5th, 2021
August 19th, 2021



September 2nd, 2021
September 16th, 2021
October 7th, 2021
October 21st, 2021
November 4th, 2021
November 18th, 2021

Their requests are on days with no conflicting events. Parks staff will determine if they are able to support the season extension requested dates.

Set-up/Management/Safety:

I (Dylan Kunkel) arrive 30 minutes early for full set-up, some club members also arrive early to help. We sweep the Bandshell, throw out empty bottles and trash and begin by roping off the front of the Bandshell leaving a large grassy area as the burn area. The concrete area has our fueling set-up at the back to utilize the lighting of the stage for safety, we have back-up battery powered lighting in case the stage lights don't come on automatically. Our fueling is held in a double containment system to reduce fumes traveling from the container and to make extinguishing a "big oops" fire within the container easy. We have a fire extinguisher on site with at least three people trained in using it and at least two main members and myself (Dylan Kunkel) who are certified Fire Flow Safety, through the Flow Institute. We provide fire safety blankets for participants and a 20min orientation to the space with safety protocols for anyone new or unfamiliar with the space. We have insurance for the group as well as most of our club members have personal insurance for performance reasons. Michael Charney (Asst. Fire Marshall) originally met with us to review our safety protocols and found us to be more than satisfactory with regard to our safety practices. At this time due to Covid-19 we now speak directly with Barry Simays, Fire Marshall for the Burlington area. Once we have finalized our schedule with BPRW we will contact Mr. Simays who will issue our open fire permits for the same dates. In the case of rain or bad weather - we either cancel (rare) or move inside the Bandshell with either reduced burn opportunities or no fire at all, likely due to wind.

COVID-19 and Managing Numbers:

We have our burn area and "hangout" area roped off at all times, club members understand to not step over the rope in any situation and thus we keep a good handle on maintaining our fire safe space. This roped off space we keep to below 30 people at all times as participants come and go from the area. We always have a managed sign-up list which helps with collecting donations and safety check-ins. Masks are required at all times while participating with Burn Club - inside and outside of our roped off area. We provide two hand sanitizing stations and request everyone sanitize before and after touching of fuel containers, fire safety blankets or shared props. We've had zero cases of Covid in regard to our community.

Contact for the Burlington Burn Club is Dylan Kunkel. He plans to attend the Commission meeting on February 2nd to answer any questions Commissioners might have.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow waiver for amplified sound from 7pm-9pm, May 15th through October 15th, and reservation extension until 10pm. If approved by the Commission, final schedule and fees to be determined by Parks staff.