



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

November 5, 2014

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager *GT*

SUBJECT: Discussion/consideration of amplified music policy for the Women's Club

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation to end amplified music by 9:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays for private events at the Women's Club.

DISCUSSION

In June, staff reported to the Council the amplified music policies for Town facilities including Peri Park. Amplified music is allowed in Peri Park with a permit and must end at sundown. With regard to buildings, the Pavilion and Women's Club allow amplified music until midnight, unless the Town determines otherwise. This determination is based on the proposed type of music (e.g., D.J. band, trio). The time limit for amplified music in the Women's Club is evaluated on a case-by-case basis because of the adjacent residences. We generally define amplified music as derived from a live band or DJ as opposed to a performance. As a matter of practice, if the Town receives a noise complaint for an event, PD will ask the users to turn the music down and shut the doors and windows. Staff does not ever recall subjecting an event at the Women's Club to the provisions of the Noise Ordinance.

At its October meeting, the Town Council further discussed the music policies for the Women's Club due to neighborhood complaints received regarding a wedding with amplified music recently held in the facility (music was required to end at 11:00pm). Staff indicated we would return with a revised policy based on the Council's discussion.

As background, over the past two years (October 2012-October 2014) only five (5) events in the Women's Club had amplified music:

Oct. 25, 2014	Irish Festival (PARC sponsor) - Saturday - 3:30-10 p.m. (upcoming)
Sep. 6, 2014	Private Wedding- Saturday - Jazz band indoor music 8-11 p.m.
Jun. 14, 2014	Fairfax Festival Teen Music –Saturday - 5-11:30 p.m.
Oct. 26, 2013	Irish Festival (PARC sponsor) – Saturday – 3 p.m.-Midnight
Oct 20, 2012	Fairfax Feis – Saturday – 9 a.m-5 p.m.

It appears events with amplified music don't happen very often, but we understand the neighborhood's concerns with potential future events. Staff recommends we continue the policy to allow staff discretion to evaluate events on a case-by-case basis. That being said, staff will implement a policy of requiring amplified music to end by 9:30 p.m. on Saturday and Fridays. Weekday events would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but would have a much earlier time limit (e.g., 7:00 p.m.). Town-sponsored events or programming could have a later "end" time, but, again, would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Staff will monitor the use of amplified music in the Women's Club and modify the policies as needed to balance the use of the facility with the concerns of the neighborhood. If amplified music in the Women's Club becomes a more common occurrence with impacts to the neighborhood, staff will return to the Council for further discussion.

FISCAL IMPACT: Potential impact to the rental of the Women's Club.

AGENDA ITEM # 17