

From: [Yaniv Aronson](#)
To: [Philip Deberly](#)
Cc: [Anita Barton](#); [Justin Freiler](#)
Subject: Re: Beer fest Question
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022 11:18:02 AM

Hi Phil,

I am a member of the CPW Rotary Club, I have volunteered at the event every year that it has run, so I am walking a bit of a tightrope here and would have abstained from any vote if it came down to me and abstained from the public discussion last night. I will say that, door knocking all of last year, on thousands of doors, the feedback on beerfest was not overwhelmingly positive, especially in Ward 7. I heard stories, blocks away, wards away, from the A Field about property damage, urination on lawns and trash. I have also seen a shift in the borough wanting to focus on family-friendly, not alcohol-based events. I would also push back on there being no problems, having been there to witness the event as a worker. We had plenty of fights, alcohol-related sickness, people sneaking into the event, etc.. In fact, our Rotary president-elect at the time, while volunteering at the last festival, got so drunk that she was eventually suspended from the club.

Even my Arts Festival and Car Show has done away with certain elements since I took it over four years ago, when it was a more traditional car show. It used to have bikini models, beer sales, etc., and now it is all family-friendly, much in line with what I hear residents want, long before this current beer festival discussion.

I will also say that the Rotary Club had a full meeting with our administration last week when the permit was initially declined. The Rotary Club is certainly welcome to share the comments given during that meeting, if they wish. I was disappointed to see that my club leadership allowed the public to believe that there was no communication or explanation given, that is simply not true. I have also recommended, for years, that the Beer Fest evolve, turn into a Jazz Festival, Food Festival, something that promotes the public good and is not exclusively about alcohol, and invites in the community and businesses into the borough in a more proactive way. This may be a great opportunity for them to do so.

I hope that helps a bit. Of course, no decision will be 100% popular with everyone, there are certainly positives to the festival or I would not have volunteered at all of them, but council made the call based on what they hear from residents on a daily basis and I respect their decision. Again, I'm a member of the club so this all puts me in an awkward spot, but I also understand the need to get out certain information and context.

Thank you for reaching out and let me know if you have any other questions,

Yaniv