

**From:** [Thomas Ertel](#)  
**To:** [Justin Ramsey](#)  
**Subject:** [External] agenda items  
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## Community comments

My apologies for not getting back to you in a timely manner. I was attempting to collect information from others and I had been out of town doing some traveling. I do have some feedback for you.

1. Tosa Tonight received this note from Sarah with Parks.

Thank you for choosing the Rotary Stage at Hart Park for your event and for your continued support of our local parks. Your events have positively contributed to the community, and we appreciate your partnership.

As a reminder for all current and future park use, parking within Hart Park is limited to designated parking areas only. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on bicycle pathways, service drives, or grass areas, in compliance with ordinance 7.64.020(10). Violations may result in a fine of up to \$100, plus prosecution costs. Additionally, anyone found violating park rules will be subject to the city's park rules and behavioral policy. **Please note that police will be increasing enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with these regulations.**

Our parks staff can assist by lowering the bollards for loading and unloading equipment and supplies. However, vehicles must be promptly moved to designated parking areas after unloading.

Thank you for your attention to these guidelines, which help ensure a safe and enjoyable park experience for all. We look forward to supporting your future events at Hart Park.

Best regards,

SG

**Sarah Grimalkin** (she/her)

*Parks and Landscape Manager*

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These rules are unreasonable and will make it difficult if not impossible to continue with the Tosa Tonight concert series. Why can we not drive on service drives or bicycle pathways? Tosa Tonight has used these for service to the stage since the stage was built. It is a tremendous task to orchestrate vendors, production, entertainment, and merchants. Not driving on the service drives and some bike paths will make it too big of a task to produce the concerts. We respect the rule of not driving in the amphitheater bowl. Parks does an incredible job of maintaining that lawn and we do our best to keep everyone off that lawn. The area behind the stage between the river and service road we have used for parking since we began hosting the concert series at Hart Park. This lawn area is not maintained by parks to the level of the bowl and we have not done any significant damage to it. Understand that the guidelines that Sarah has presented will also inhibit other events being produced and the Rotary Performance Pavillion.

2. Is there an update on when or if the bathrooms will be rebuilt? Tennis, pickleball, softball, volleyball, and other park users deserve restroom facilities.

3. Leff's runs the Volleyball league at Hart Park which runs from May through August. We have 6 games Sunday through Thursday. There are a couple of issues regarding the volleyball league.

a. The aforementioned bathrooms are being replaced. Not only do the volleyball players want to have a bathroom near the courts but also a drinking fountain and a hose to wash their feet after playing in the sand.

b. Leff's requested that the park grant us permission to keep a locked box for equipment for the volleyball leagues, balls, sidelines, referee stands, score cards. Despite Leff's renting the courts 5 days a week for 4 months of the year, the Parks department said they would not allow an equipment box to be kept near the courts for the league.

c. The court drainage systems need to be addressed. This past summer, especially the east court did not drain well after a rain. Leff's has been running the Volleyball league at Hart Park for 20 years and the drainage has never been this bad. It is my opinion that there is something clogging the drains or some of the drains collapsed. This needs to be investigated and at some point attended to. I understand that this may not get repaired soon. It is a big job but the parks department should be made aware of it and work this into their budget soon.

d. Because of the drainage issues we fell behind on our schedule to get all the league games in. We requested that we use Chestnut Commons to set up grass courts to get caught up. The park department charged us for the use of Chestnut Common even though we were only using it because

the Volleyball courts were unusable and Chestnut Common was available.

e. Many times last year Leff's employees, league, players, and referees worked to rake out or remove standing water from the courts. The Parks department often told us that we could not do this even though they were not doing anything to prep the courts for the games.

f. Parks Department raised our cost of renting the courts from \$15 to \$20 a game. That is a 33.3% increase. If we hadn't already committed to our teams to run the league this year, we probably would have canceled the league. Leff's incurs all the expenses for running the league and relies on teams and players supporting Leff's before and after games.

Financially it may not be sustainable for Leff's to put front the cost for running the summer volleyball league at Hart Park.

Sorry again for getting this to you late and for the long dissertation. Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of this further. Hart Park is a gem for our city and particularly the Wauwatosa Village. The Village has made so many changes over the past 30 years for the better. It is a true destination in South Eastern Wisconsin. There are so many that have worked hard to attract business, shoppers, diners, and park users to the Village. I continue to get the impression that the Park Department doesn't want events, leagues, or activities in the park. They continue to make it harder to produce activities and more expensive to use.

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