

Noise from Goodman Center HVAC System - Meeting & report of 11/29/2012

We had a good meeting discussing what has been done and what can be done in Spring once HVAC begins running again. Questions about ricochet issues complicating result (sound diminishes at regular interval with distance - logarithmic relationship). Request decibel mapping of adjacent properties to get a sense if there are areas where sound is amplified through some geography of building scape. Competing sound technology to diminish effect needs to be considered but not sure of applicability in complex environment. Currently decibel readings at 53-54 in park and adjacent housing during daytime HVAC use. Some consideration needs to be given to community (residents, SASY and GCC) response if all attempts to reduce noise fail to adequately meet needs of community.

Options include:

1. Installing a fan to blow air into the HVAC fencing box which may diminish the stress on cooling caused by fencing itself and allowing missing panel of fencing to be replaced.
2. Installing sound blankets on all walls if not now covered. Becky will report back as to whether there are currently two or three walls covered.
3. Placing cone fencing at base of unit where sound originated (rather than upper placement where first tried) to see if sound can be deflected upward. Becky says she believes there is room for that and it would allow lower area of fencing to be removed for improved air flow.
4. Climbing wall for teen center anyone (additional wall surface area higher up to build on deflection currently in place)? Probably not a big enough solution in itself to cover affected neighborhood in that this sort of shielding would require quite a long fence high up (with lots of support structure and risk) and zoning etc not friendly toward such a move.
5. Consider vegetative plantings either in park or railroad side of boundary using arbor vitae which could be pruned high to allow for visual safety and provide the sound barrier at higher levels where needed. Requires patience in implementation for specimen to grow into place. Neighbors will continue to talk with each other about this solutions since some residents strongly opposed to vegetation for safety/security reasons (homeless hiding in trees, storing tenting and bedding for use). Becky will approach rail line but that route not likely to be successful based on previous rail response and practice.
6. Becky will email this group with monthly updats on work toward sound

reduction beginning the first week in May at a minimum, earlier if HVAC is on before then, with intention that communication is available to SASY exec committee and interested residents the weekend prior to SASY Council meeting. Group will follow up to meet in person if problems persist.

7. SASY Council places on it's agenda regular updates on progress of issue beginning in May 2013.

8. Decibel mapping to identify any areas where sound is amplified and to monitor change with implementation of mitigation.

Other discussion considerations:

1. Alcohol in Park? Residents opposed to restricting alcohol since some drink responsibly and loitering (with alcohol) is issue. Continue to discuss.

2. Additional sound research on deflection, mitigation technology.

3. John to identify developer of Main Street site who spoke about sound technology at last SASY meeting (**Ryan Kolar, property owner at 1967 East Main St. (the corner of Main and 2nd)**). Anyone have his contact info (**Lou, Catherine**)?

Subnote: Lou suggests checking the louvered system for streetside HXC at Loraine Hotel downtown. Becky verifies having worked with two certified noise abatement specialists.

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