

27 Talk Noise to Boone Council

Written by Gary Childers

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Boone Town Council continues to “hear” the downtown business owners and residents as they “sound out” about the proposed noise ordinance. For the second time this week, during the time set aside for public comment, multiple speakers signed up to let the Council know their opinions about the decibel levels proposed as maximums for various times of the day and night. During Tuesday’s and Thursday’s public comment periods a total of twenty seven people spoke with twenty four encouraging the Council to raise the decibel levels and three encouraging them to stick with the proposed levels. The twenty four speakers asking for increased decibel levels were primarily business owners who provide live or recorded music during the evening hours, or musicians who perform in these venues. Most of these presenters acknowledged the difficulty the Council faces in developing an ordinance that is perceived as fair to all then shared perspectives they hoped would influence the Council to believe being fair means raising the maximum decibel limits. Jesse Miller, a resident, speaking in favor of increasing the decibel limits stated his concern that the present levels set would cause the culture created by the music scene to be eliminated from down town, “Let’s not let the complaint of a very few ruin the culture of an entire community. I’m not going to say that music is the actual heart of Boone, but I know without a doubt it provides the beat.” Terry Taylor, resident of Grand Boulevard—close to the businesses with late night music, said the issue is pretty simple, “It’s really not a complicated issue. The noise we’re talking about isn’t a noise from football games. It isn’t noise from the Jones House that closes at 8 in the afternoon. It’s about the noise when people are trying to sleep.” An organized campaign against it has been publicized by posters at and around music venues around town, giving contact information for the council members, telling music fans to load council members’ email boxes with comments. The Council made no comments except to thank the speakers for sharing their views. The noise ordinance is still being rewritten and is scheduled to come back to Council for approval, or further revisions, in the near future.