

Many residents irked by accord with center

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vide time for residents and Community Center officials to resolve their differences.

THE AGREEMENT was forged by a Farmington Hills city council committee that met with center officials and neighboring residents. The agreement was proposed to each side late last week.

City prosecutor Tim Kenny read aloud the nine-point agreement that's expected to resolve concerns and complaints about the center's noise, particularly from outdoor concerts and activities. The center sits in the heart of a residential area.

"The resolution, while it is satisfactory to the city, it isn't satisfactory to Mr. Shortt. He indicated to me that nothing less than criminal prosecution will be satisfactory to him," city prosecutor Tim Kenny said. Shortt's position is not the sole determination of the agreement or the city's noise complaint against the center, Kenny added.

Shortt issued a statement Tuesday morning that said Harris should not have relieved Pfaff "of her legal responsibility in this matter by shifting the responsibility for any future illegal acts by the Community Center officers and board members."

"I am surprised that Judge Harris would even recognize an agreement drafted by an ad hoc committee of



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Resident William Shortt, a neighbor of the community center, was displeased with a noise agreement approved by Judge Fred Harris of 47th District Court of Farmington.

four city employees that has not been approved by the city council or the parks and recreation department," Shortt continued. His statement also criticized a provision of the agreement.

IN COURT Monday, committee member David Call, Farmington Hills assistant city manager and Pfaff publicly gave their blessings to

the agreement.

Pfaff's attorney, William Brukoff of Southfield, said the community center "wants to be a good neighbor." Center officials "want to do the things necessary to maintain a good relationship with the neighbors," he said.

Brukoff said that the Aug. 23 concert was allowed by a city-issued permit. Despite conflicts over noise levels, there was "never criminal intent or desire to annoy anyone," Brukoff said.

In dismissing the complaint against Pfaff, Harris said the court would retain jurisdiction in the matter until the end of September-early October, after the Farmington Hills Planning Commission reviews the Community Center's adherence to a one-year ban on the use of amplification for the center's outdoor performances and activities.

The city council-appointed committee has worked since January to reach an accord with the Community Center and neighbors who complained of noise from the center. Members are council members Aldo Vagnozzi, chairman, and Nancy Bates, and city manager William Costello and assistant city manager Call.

While neighbors have complained of noise from the center, center officials have complained that the outdoor concerts are necessary to the center's finances.



Community center director Dorothy Pfaff Southfield, as a disturbing the peace complaints to her attorney, William Brukoff of point against her is dismissed Monday.

Agreement continues ban on outdoor amplification

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Here are provisions of the agreement reached between Community Center of Farmington-Hills officials and Farmington Hills administrators:

• No outside amplification or outside music for wedding receptions and parties will be used at the

center. Weddings with unamplified music will be allowed.

• Bands and/or amplifiers cannot be used in the center's screened porch.

• The center's rental contracts will state that band music or amplification inside will be controlled by a center representative. Doors and windows will be closed while music is played.

• The planning commission's ban on outdoor amplification remains in effect.

• City and center officials will continue to discuss an arrangement for the center to use and coordinate outdoor children's programs and other cultural events at the yet-to-be constructed outdoor amphitheater at neighboring Heritage Park. This arrangement will require city council approval.

This provision came under fire by Farmington Hills resident William Shortt, who filed the disturbing the peace complaint against center director Dorothy Pfaff after an Aug. 23 outdoor concert. In a statement Shortt said:

"The agreement he (Harris) accepted would commit the city of Farmington Hills to spending thousands of taxpayers and parks and

recreation dollars to build a new outdoor theater in Heritage Park for the community center, a private organization that pays no city or state taxes."

• Charges against Pfaff will be dismissed but the community center will remain a defendant in the disturbing the peace complaint.

• Center officials will continue to take "reasonable efforts" to further reduce sound levels for the neighbors by continuing a study of band shell baffling; increased vegetation; and proposed installation of window air conditioning units (would result in noise reduction at indoor concerts and weddings).

• If neighbors continue to complain, the complaints will be directed to the city attorney, who will evaluate them. If the attorney feels the agreement's terms have been

breached he will make a motion to set aside the accord. Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court in Farmington will determine whether the agreement has been breached.

• If there are no more problems and the agreement hasn't been breached through Sept. 30, the remaining charges against the community center will be dismissed.

Contest winners picked

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hauer, 13, of Canton Township. She is a student at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School in Plymouth.

First place winners in both age groups will receive a \$75 U.S. Savings Bond. Second place winners receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond while third place winners will be awarded \$25 cash. All the winners will receive Earth Day beach balls. Judging the 16-18 year old category

ry were Steve Barnaby, managing editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; Sandy Armbruster, editor of the Southfield Eccentric, and LeAnne Rogers, reporter for the Garden City Observer.

Judges for the 13-15 age group were Doug Funk, reporter for the O&E's business and building scene sections; Joanne Maliszewski, reporter for the Farmington Observer, and Brenda Dooley, reporter for the Rochester Eccentric.

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