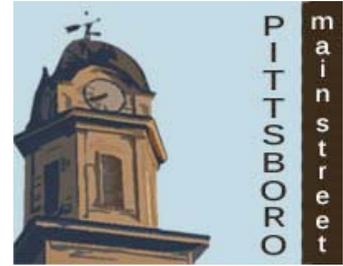


Memo

To: Mayor and Board of Commissioners
From: Paul Horne Main Street Program Manager
Date: March 11, 2013
Re: Courthouse Opening Celebration



Background & Discussion:

Ceremonies surrounding the Grand Re-opening of the Courthouse are slated for April 20, 2013 with most of the County Events occurring between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm, with the main ceremonies occurring around 1:15. The Town has considered having a street celebration after the County Events requiring the closure of Hillsboro St. from the Circle to Salisbury St.

At the Board meeting of February 25th, staff reported that the Pittsboro Business Association (PBA) had endorsed the street closure after polling their membership. Both staff and Commissioners recognized that not all downtown business owners were members of the PBA and as such, the Commissioners requested additional polling to more accurately gauge the sentiment of our downtown business community.

On Friday March 1st, Commissioner Farrell generously offered to accompany me while I did the polling of the downtown business owners along Hillsboro Street between the circle and Salisbury Street. We included a few nearby restaurants and bars within easy walking distance as well. The survey, as presented to the merchants, is provided in full below:

Form of the Survey:

Downtown Business Survey Regarding Possible Courthouse Re-Opening Street Celebration



The Town of Pittsboro is considering holding a street celebration on Saturday April 20, 2013 in coordination with celebrations being held earlier in the day by Chatham County. While no details have been firmed up at this point, the following is being proposed:

- The event would involve a street closure of one block, that along Hillsboro Street between the circle and Salisbury Street. The circle itself would remain open.
- The event would be no more than 4 hours
- The event would likely start at 5:30 PM and extend until 9:30
- Alternative parking locations would be sought and a map pointing out those locations would be made available online in advance of the event.
- Police would provide traffic control and public safety and could direct traffic to the alternative parking areas.

- Port-a-lets would be provided by the Town
- Trash cans would be provided by the Town

The Town wants to gauge the sentiment of the downtown business owners to see how they'd feel about such a proposed event. The Town has asked the Pittsboro Business Association to conduct their membership, but not everyone downtown is a member, so the Town is conducting more polling in order to get a more accurate assessment of the thoughts of downtown business owners.

3 Survey Questions:

1) Would you be in favor of a street closure for such an event given the parameters stipulated above?

- Yes
- No

2) Please describe your business:

- Retail
- Restaurant
- Service
- Other _____

3) Are you open for business on Saturdays? If so, what are your hours?

- Open - From _____ to _____
- Closed

General Survey Results:

Of the businesses polled, 15 favored the street closure and 3 were opposed. While not a survey question per se, we gathered that the restaurants were generally opposed to having food or beverage trucks at the ceremony as they would compete with their businesses. Staff recommends that if the Town proceeds with the event that we not invite food or beverage trucks. It is hoped that restaurants will remain open to serve the crowds. One of the goals of the event is to help local businesses and support them, while commemorating the courthouse.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Commissioners authorize a street celebration on April 20th and direct staff to petition NCDOT to approve closure of one block of Hillsboro Street north of the Courthouse.

Detailed Survey Results:

Side of Street	#	Establishment	In Favor of the Event?	Business Type	Hours	Consider Extending Hours?
East	1	The Mod	Y	Restaurant	7:30 am - Midnight	
	2	Roadhouse	Y	Restaurant	till 10 pm or Midnight	Y
	3	Sullivan Music	Y	Retail	to 3 pm	
	4	Mexian Tienda	Y	Retail	10 am to 8 pm	
	5	Market Image Antiques	Y	Retail	11 am - 5 pm	Y
	6	Barbershop	N	Service	6:30 am to noon	
	7	S&T's Soda Shoppe	N	Restaurant	11am - 7:30 pm	
	8	Circle City Books	Y	Retail	10am- 7 pm	Y
West	9	Beggars & Choosers	Y	Retail	10:30 am -5:30 pm	Y
	10	Pittsboro Toys	Y	Retail	9:30 am - 5:00 pm	
	11	Joyful Jewell	Y	Retail	10:30 am - 5:30 pm	
	12	New Horizons	Y	Retail	10 am - 5 pm	Y
	13	Eric Michaels Salon	Y	Service	9 am - 3 pm	
	14	Second Bloom	Y	Retail	10 am - 5 pm	
	15	LiquidAmbar	Y	Retail	9:30 am - 5:30 pm	Y
	16	Reclamation Furniture	Y	Retail	10:30 am- 5:30 pm	Y
	17	Elizabeth's Pizza	N	Restaurant	11 am - 10 pm	
Salisbury St.	18	The City Tap	Y	Restaurant/ Bar	2 pm - midnight	