

Colleen Ingman

From: Jay Sweeney
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 5:44 PM
To: assembly@cityofsitka.com
Cc: Robin Koutchak; Michael Harmon; Chris Brewton; Colleen Ingman; Doug Osborne; sheldons@sitkapd.com
Subject: Suspension of Further Street Closures Until Assembly Discussion and Direction

Mayor McConnell and Assembly Members,

The closure of Lincoln Street this week has created considerable controversy that is not abating. It has now grown into conflict between merchants as to who should be allowed to sell within the barricaded area, who will regulate the sales, who gets to sell where, etc., etc.

The Assembly has not explicitly voted on the street closures and associated details, nor has it given direction to Municipal staff to organize, manage and oversee the closures. Given this, the staff is uncomfortable making further value judgments that are certain to create public controversy without Assembly input. Thus, I feel it is in the best interest of the Municipality to suspend all future street closures until the Assembly can consider what public policy it would direct the staff to pursue here.

Regards,

Jay

John P. Sweeney III

John P. Sweeney III
Interim Municipal Administrator

Colleen Ingman

From: Jay Sweeney
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 5:34 PM
To: Garry White; Doug Osborne
Cc: Robin Koutchak; Colleen Ingman; Michael Harmon; Chris Brewton; sheldons@sitkapd.com
Subject: Suspension of Further Lincoln Street Closure Permits

Doug and Garry,

Due to serious issues and concerns raised here and by numerous other citizens, I feel compelled to suspend all further street closures until this issue can be addressed by the Assembly. The next Assembly meeting will be June 25.

As I have already stated, the downtown revitalization effort is NOT a mission or directive of the Municipality; the Assembly has not directed Staff to organize, manage, or oversee the street closures. It has also not publicly discussed the issue of street vendor sales during these events. Until such specific direction occurs from the Assembly, the Municipality is not going to involve itself in setting rules and guidelines for street sales. To do so would involve judgment calls on public policy that are the purview of the Assembly.

As the Assembly does not meet again until June 25, I am going to ask the Police Department to suspend all future street closure permits until the Assembly gives direction on this matter.

Regards,

Jay

John P. Sweeney III

John P. Sweeney III
Interim Municipal Administrator

From: Garry White [mailto:garrywhite@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 4:58 PM
To: Jay Sweeney
Subject: RE: Lincoln St Closure

Jay,

Below is SGC concerning sales on public property, specifically CBD District. Sales on public property are prohibited. 6.16.010 (C) gives the Administrator authority to allow sales. If you have not done so, then no one should be on public property selling items.

If you have given authorization to sell on public property, then I would assume sales are open to everyone as it is public property.

If you are only allowing the DT revitalization group to conduct sales on public property, then I have a real issue with that as well as all other merchants in the community.

In my opinion it is either no sales on public property or everyone is allowed. If everyone is allowed, then some rules need to be established or it will turn into what happened a few years ago with excursion vendors and cruise passengers, ask Stan and Don about that.

Except as allowed in this section, outdoor sales of goods or articles, including solicitation for certain services or activities, are prohibited outdoors on public property in the CBD district, public use zone and public boat harbors. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, sales on public sidewalks, parking lots and streets, except as allowed below:

A. The following sales will be allowed in areas designated on an annual permit issued by the municipality for a fee of ten dollars:

1. Incidental sales by juveniles of Alaskan items made by the juveniles, or natural items collected by the juveniles, to tourists in the Crescent Harbor area,
2. Traditional sales of Alaskan items by Alaska Natives,
3. Sales of personally made arts and crafts items by senior citizens for charitable purposes,
4. a. Sales of items by juveniles, the proceeds from which will primarily benefit a recognized charitable organization dedicated to providing programs for youth,
 - b. Sales will be limited to unique items that are not available commercially,
 - c. Such permits shall be limited to no more than three groups at any one given time;

B. Retail sales of seafood to the ultimate consumer by the actual fisherman from their vessels in the assigned stalls;

C. By prior arrangement with the administrator, sales may be authorized for special events such as the Salmon Derby, the Fourth of July and Alaska Day;

D. Solicitation by musicians shall be allowed in areas designated on a musician permit issued by the municipality for an annual fee of ten dollars, under the following conditions:

1. Musician may perform and will be issued a musician permit during hours designated by the harbormaster, and
2. No electrical amplification of any instrument will be allowed;

E. On-site supervision by an adult is required for all juveniles under the age of ten who participate in permitted sales and other activities allowed under this section. The permit may be revoked for misconduct;

F. Failure to follow the rules of this chapter may result in the loss of a permit.

Garry White
Executive Director
Sitka Economic Development Association (SEDA)
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From: Jay Sweeney [<mailto:jay@cityofsitka.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 2:13 PM
To: Garry White; Doug Osborne
Cc: Robin Koutchak; Colleen Ingman; Michael Harmon; Chris Brewton; sheldons@sitkapd.com
Subject: RE: Lincoln St Closure

Hello Garry,

I am maintaining a firm stance that downtown revitalization, and its associated activities, is not a formal mission or responsibility of the City and Borough of Sitka at this point. For the Municipality to officially take this responsibility on, the Assembly would need to direct staff to organize and implement the beautification/revitalization, which it has not done.

At this point, the Municipality is supporting the ad hoc Downtown Revitalization Committee with limited financial and logistical support, as requested by the Committee and as appropriate. The Municipality advised as to what can't be accomplished because of law, SGC, or private property issues; otherwise, the Municipality attempts to coordinate the desires of the Committee.

Given this, the role of the Municipality in regards to street closure is to process the closure permits (which has been done), erect the barricades, and monitor the closure safety-related issues and compliance with other civil code requirements.

Thus, the source of answers for your questions is the ad hoc Downtown Revitalization Committee. Doug Osborne is the Committee Chairman/Spokesman, and he is the individual you should direct your comments and questions to.

If the street closure can't be accomplished successfully through the efforts and management of the ad hoc Committee, and the responsibility falls back onto the Municipality to manage the event, I will have to give strong consideration to suspending further closures until the Assembly can weigh in on the matter at its next meeting.

Regards,

Jay

John P. Sweeney III
John P. Sweeney III
Interim Municipal Administrator

From: Garry White [<mailto:garrywhite@gci.net>]
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 10:18 AM
To: Jay Sweeney
Cc: Robin Koutchak
Subject: RE: Lincoln St Closure - Peddlers Setting Up Tables

Thanks Jay,

I would be interested in the plan. As a part owner of a downtown store front business, but not located in the proposed closed off section, our business is considering setting up a table in the closed off section of Lincoln. I believe that would be allowed as Lincoln Street and the sidewalks are public property.

I have heard similar comments from other downtown businesses. A number of permitted food vendors are planning on moving in as well.

Who do we coordinate with? The CBS or Revitalization group?

Is there a permit needed?

Who decides how many people are allowed or who is allowed?

Is there a limit on how much space we can use?

Is there a plan on arranging tables or can we set up anywhere?

Is there a fee for the better spots?

Who decides on which vendor gets the better spots or is it just who can set up there table the fastest?

I'm not trying to be a jerk with all these questions, as a business owner, we have to have our plans detailed and I really do not know the answers. I figured I would start with the CBS as they are the owners of the property.

Thanks,

Garry White

From: Jay Sweeney [<mailto:jay@cityofsitka.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 10:21 AM
To: Garry White
Cc: Mike Middleton; brenda@cityofsitka.com; donk@cityofsitka.com; 'Barry Allen'; Doug Osborne
Subject: RE: Lincoln St Closure - Peddlers Setting Up Tables

Gary,

I have a plan to deal with this issue.

It will require some coordination with our Finance Department, PD and Centennial Building Manager, but I don't see it as a mess. A manageable problem, certainly, but doable with good coordination and advance planning. Several others have also brought this issue to my attention.

Jay

From: Garry White [<mailto:garrywhite@gci.net>]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 10:12 AM
To: Jay Sweeney
Subject: Lincoln St Closure

Jay,

FYI. Two people I ran into last night state that they plan on setting up a table and selling items (t-shirts in one case) when Lincoln street is closed next week. Neither of them have store fronts downtown. Apparently some folks that do not have downtown store fronts were selling items in the street yesterday. I see a potential mess.

Garry White
Executive Director
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Colleen Ingman

From: Jay Sweeney <jay@cityofsitka.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 8:50 AM
To: all@cityofsitka.com
Cc: assembly@cityofsitka.com; Doug Osborne
Subject: Downtown Street Closure Today

Good morning all,

In order to clear up mis-information in regards to the downtown street closure today, I want to let everyone know the facts:

- o The closure was requested by the ad hoc Downtown Revitalization Cmmmittee. The Committee properly requested a permit from the Police Department and was granted one. The permit is no different than those requested by the Chamber of Commerce for trick-or- treating, etc.; it does not require Assembly approval.

- o The closure is from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

- o Please pass any feedback you receive to me and I will be sure to pass it on to the Downtown Revitalization Committee.

- o The Revitalization Committee has a plan to close the street three more times during the summer. I have spoken to both the Police Department and Doug Osborne about the plan, and agreed to evaluate the success of this first closure before granting/agreeing to the remainder of the requests

- o It is already clear that insufficient notification wne tout to affected parties; I will pass this information on mimmediately to Doug Osborne.

Thanks,

John P. Sweeney III

John P. Sweeney III
Interim Municipal Administrator

Colleen Ingman

From: Doug Osborne <dougo@searhc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 9:59 PM
To: assembly@cityofsitka.com; Jay Sweeney
Cc: Cynthia Gibson; Angela McGraw; Gerry Hope
Subject: pedestrain walkway update: working out the bugs

Dear assembly members,

The downtown revitalization group had a productive meeting tonight. The group discussed and evaluated the successes and the problems associated with today's street closure.

The biggest problem was a lack of notification. Cyndy Gibson (the project leader) and Angela McGraw committed to make public service announecments to address this problem.

The community Ride had two concerns regarding the closure; delays and safety. Gerry Hope attended the meeting and will have a follow up meeting with Cyndy to hammer out a plan to address these issues.

Micheal Bricker, with Sitka Pedicabs, attended the meeting as well and will also do a follow up to Cyndy to create a plan. Cyndy talked with Sitka Tours today and has a plan to address their needs at the next scheduled closure.

The group voted to modify the times on the next 3 closures in this experiement. The new time will be from 10am to 2pm.

Today was the first of four Wednesdays in this experiement. The group heard of many positive aspects and decided that the bugs could get worked out. They voted to do it again and saw that it has the potential to be great.

Everyone is excited about participation from the Sitka Fine Arts camp, the Russian dancers and the summer music fest participants, all of whom have been contacted and have plans to share their music and art for free.

I wish I could say that today went off without a hitch, however that is clearly not the case and I take full responsiblity for any heartache today's trial closure caused. The decision on how to proceed was left completely to the group and they decided not to pull the plug, they see the potential and I support their decision.

I've cc'd the project leader Cyndy in case she has anything to add.

Thank you for your time and for supporting our effort to revitalize our downtown. We are making progress and will continue too.

Doug

--

Doug Osborne, M.A.
Health Educator IV

Colleen Ingman

From: Terry Littlefield <dogpoint@ptialaska.net>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 6:38 PM
To: assembly@cityofsitka.com; Jay Sweeney
Subject: Lincoln Street Closure and DOT Traffic Data

While the very ugly "uptown merchants vs downtown merchants" quarrel has raised it's head again (lightering boats)to cause Mr. Sweeney to temporarily suspend the downtown Lincoln Street "open mall", I don't believe that should be the deciding factor.

The State of Alaska DOT has been collecting traffic data for years. The link below is pointed to their 2011 data for the downtown Sitka Area. The numbers in red are the average DAILY traffic counts. When you find the Lincoln Street number you will see it says 6,359 daily traffic counts. Yes, 6,359. Here is the average daily traffic count.

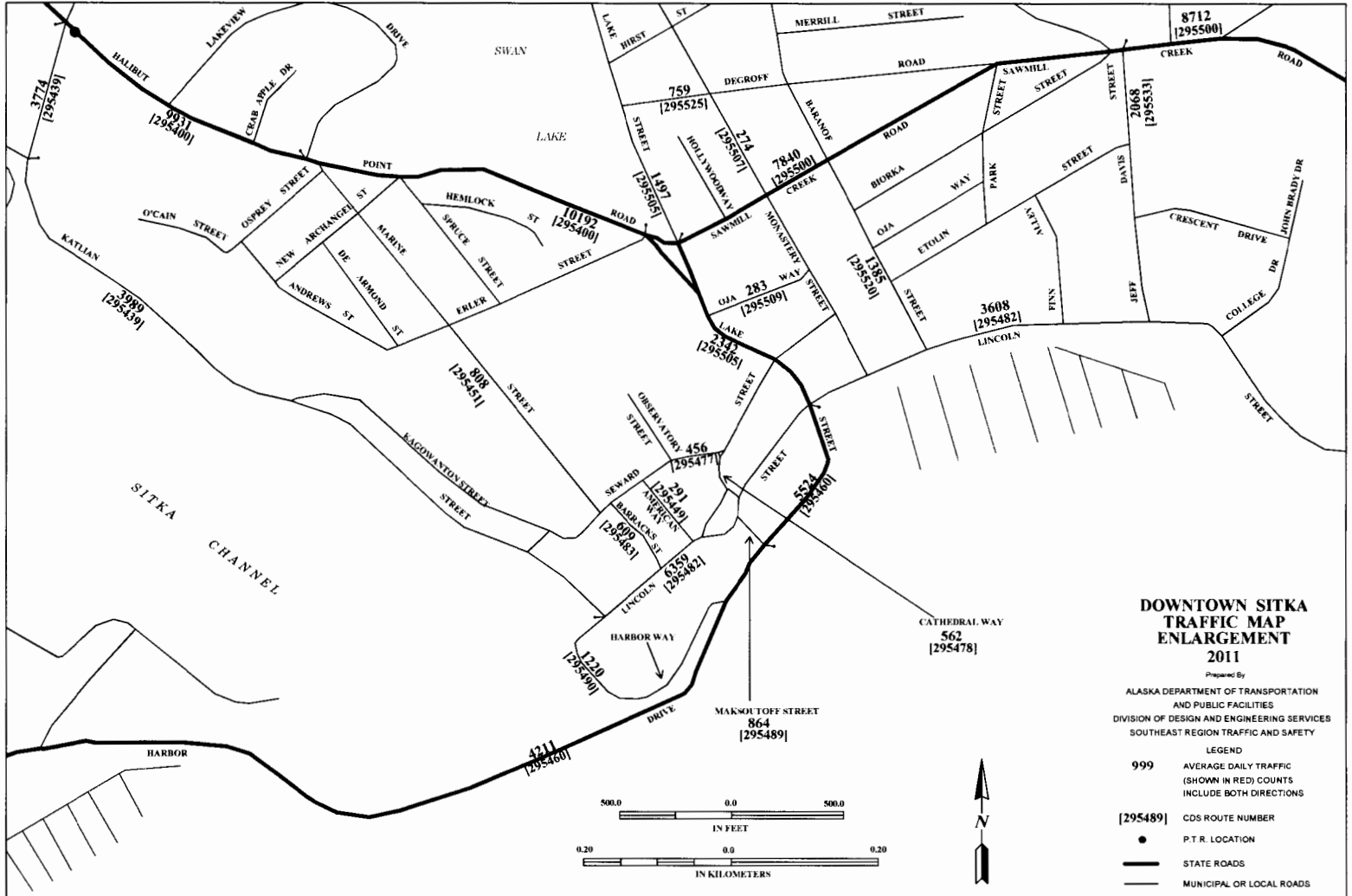
http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/mapping/trafficmaps/2011/Southeast/2011_ADT_Downtown_Sitka.pdf

Definitions:

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT): The estimated number of vehicles traveling over a given road segment during one 24 hour day. In practice, AADT is usually obtained from a sample(coverage count) adjusted for seasonality assuming roads are open year round.

If you were downtown during the closure you would have seen the multiple vehicles making circles around the St. Michael's Church, even with the notification. All these people inconvenienced by the closure include probably thousands of local residents, hundreds or more of local non-tourist vehicle traffic, who knows how many public service vehicles, including police and fire. Oh yeah, the tour buses had to re-route too.

with the exception of the HPR and Sawmill Creek Road systems, Lincoln Street has the highest traffic. Lincoln Street is our "Main Street". And the traffic numbers show that. This data alone should be enough to permanently suspend the revitalize "Open Mall" failed experiment.



Colleen Ingman

From: Jay Sweeney
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 10:29 AM
To: brenda@cityofsitka.com; Mike Middleton; 'Barry Allen'; donk@cityofsitka.com; Doug Osborne
Cc: sheldons@sitkapd.com; Michael Harmon; chrisb@cityofsitka.com; Colleen Ingman
Subject: FW: Lincoln St Closure - Controlling Unlicensed Peddlers

Good morning all,

My first blush plan is to have existing merchants identify non-compliant peddlers and then utilize CBS PD personnel to ask them to leave. Please respond back to me with your thoughts and ideas. On one hand, this is a very minor issue in light of all we have going on, but on the other hand, it can become a political hot potato if not thought through.

Thanks,

Jay

From: Garry White [<mailto:garrywhite@gci.net>]
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2013 10:12 AM
To: Jay Sweeney
Subject: Lincoln St Closure

Jay,

FYI. Two people I ran into last night state that they plan on setting up a table and selling items (t-shirts in one case) when Lincoln street is closed next week. Neither of them have store fronts downtown. Apparently some folks that do not have downtown store fronts were selling items in the street yesterday. I see a potential mess.

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Colleen Ingman

From: Tam Fondell <tamf@alaskajewelry.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 6:45 PM
To: assembly@cityofsitka.com
Cc: 'Chris Fondell'
Subject: closing Lincoln Street

Dear Assembly Members,

I am writing this letter to address the closing of Lincoln Street to through traffic on certain cruise ship days as well as the proposed idea of making a portion of Lincoln a one way street.

Firstly in relation to the closing of the street to traffic on "busy" ship days. I can appreciate what the attempt is in regard to this idea, but as a business owner I must say that I do not see a benefit in doing this. As a matter of fact I see it as a negative. I am very happy to share my town with cruise visitors. I understand that they are a main source of revenue to our city. However, there are many people who do not share those same feelings. Unfortunately, closing the street to through traffic will not help those folks accept the cruise visitors with any more positive feelings. As I said, I am happy to share my town. I enjoy the visitors. But, I also do not want to inconvenience the local population unduly. I believe that closing Lincoln Street does just that. This will only be viewed as a negative. I would encourage you to please cease with this practice.

Today was the first attempt at this idea. I had multiple complaints from locals who came downtown. With only one day of this and several complaints in my place of business alone, I am fairly certain that this will not go over with great enthusiasm among our locals. Here are some of the descriptive used to describe the closed street; "stupid", "what a pain", "lame", "Really?!!", "What are they thinking?!!" – not what I would call a grand start to the practice.

As to the idea of making Lincoln Street a one way street. I really cannot see any reason at all to do this. Our downtown does not experience such high traffic volume that we have to worry about traffic control. This would only be another inconvenience to the local. Please discard this suggestion.

Thank you for your time and service to our community. I appreciate you listening to my views.

Tamara A. Fondell
Goldsmith Gallery, Owner
407 Lincoln St.
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-5744

Colleen Ingman

From: Mary L Stephenson <marystep@iserv.net>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 9:22 PM
To: Assembly Members City of Sitka; RS Doug Osborne; RS Health Summit Angela McGraw
Cc: Sitka Daily Sentinel James Paulson
Subject: ooops! My Bad...

Cyndy Gibson of the Revitalize Sitka's apology in tonight's paper for *not doing a better job of informing the community about the event* – continues to show the lack of organization by this lofty group to do good, consideration of ALL-OF-SITKA the right of access 24/7/365 and the on-going request from Assembly members (May 28th meeting), merchants and residents, to give the group an opportunity to submit a detailed proposal that measures success or failure when closing off Lincoln Street on one of its busiest days of the summer season – before it happens. I know for fact the group has been planning this since January and I would consider Wednesday's efforts – lack luster at others expense!

No matter how much free marketing/advertising space the Sentinel is giving this group to succeed and the mention of street closures on four consecutive Wednesdays, obviously the group didn't make phone calls and work one-on-one with transportation logistics! I witnessed first hand when the supervisor from STA and Community Ride comes upon Lincoln Street street closure at 7:00 AM and learns of it for the first time. She was not happy and rightfully so. Besides preparing for the arrival of the cruise ship, her office now has to re-route the Community Ride buses and ridership for the day.

I get a sense that the group kept things low-key to avoid a public outcry. Not alerting transportation and police to work out logistics is unforgivable. The group didn't take into consideration the ripple affect beyond the 200 block of Lincoln as traffic congestion built back on Lincoln, Lake and Sawmill Creek as well as Jeff Davis – as the Police Blotter duly noted.

From every angle of this event, I only viewed 4 people taking the advantage of extra space and set up a table to sell 'more stuff' – in an attempt to enhance the local experience. Did they have a permit? Did the group charge a high price on the table rental? Why didn't the City charge a usage fee for this valuable piece of real estate? Merchants can't compete with FREE.

Had this group worked hard on this effort, there would have been street artists and vendors, staffing from Chamber and Visitor Center (lodges, operators, attractions) and Historical Sitka group taking the advantage of showcasing Sitka – with all that we have to offer - would have filled the days activity. The only novelty was the visitor who stood in the middle of the 200 block of Lincoln and took photographs of our crown jewel, St. Michael's and lots of open space for a few to enjoy.

Because the group did not establish and publish their a measurement of success or failure i.e. what did they hope to achieve from the perspective of something different than a mall-like atmosphere, if ongoing what the income and expense would be realized by group organizers, how does a rainy day keep the people sitting in the lawn chairs and enjoying the local experience, how were the merchants receipts Wednesday June 5th, vs. June 12th, 19th, 26th and July 10th – it remains confusing for City Officials to approve future closures? How were tour operators compensated for their expense.

In summary, in my opinion, the City officials has to quickly take charge of any future street closures and become more participatory with guidelines and regulations and not let the 200 block of Lincoln become free-rent space for event planners and exhibitors.

The next thing I would recommend is to think twice at giving the \$25,000 to this ad hoc committee because the City already has the various Boards and Commissions who volunteer their expertise to recommend and follow-through with annual downtown clean up, work with business owners to beautify (planters, murals and art), and make it a tradition that as the Christmas light fixtures come down, banners automatically are hung in spring and fall.

Mary Stephenson

Colleen Ingman

From: Carole Newcomb <rodguy@ptialaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 2:24 PM
To: Assembly members
Subject: Street closure

Its time to stand behid the Revitalize Sitka Committee! They are doing quite a lot without much funding. I juist cant see how closing off the downtown 2 blocks from vehicle traffic is going to adversely effect local drivers; its only a few days for a few hours! I say encourage the traveling public to spend more time enjoying what Sitka has to offer! Please stand behind the":committe " and their efforts. Gene & Carole Newcomb