1610 R Street, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95811

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Project: Mill Street Closure and Pedestrian Plaza Grass Valley, CA

Stakeholder Focus Group #2: Business Owners

Date: May 27, 2021, 09:00 am - 10:00am

SITE PLAN EXERCISE

See images attached for site plan notes. Major themes include:



SURVEY - SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

1. What are 3 things you have valued most about the closure of Mill Street?

Calm and quiet (9) Sense of Community (8) More foot traffic (7) Family feel (7) Safety (7)

 What permanent features would you like to see on Mill and Main Streets? Plants and trees (13) Restrooms (10)

Water and/or fire feature (9)

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Seating (8) Lighting (7) Dropoff/loading areas (6) 3. In your opinion, what is the most important thing the design of Mill and Main Streets should address? ADA access (14) Maintaining the street's historic character (10) Parking availability and access (8) Delivery access (4) Shade and shelter (4) 4. How would your business use the outdoor space in Downtown Grass Valley? Outdoor dining (6) Cork 49 Watershed at the Owl Union Building Cake Bakery Café Lazy Dog Old Town Café Café Corvus Music (1) Cork 49 Classes, events, demonstrations (4) **Crystal Empire** Union Building Lola and Jack Tess' Kitchen Store Retail display (2) Yuba Blue Heart and Home

SURVEY RESPONSES

Bob Thompson

Cork 49

- 1. Ability to eat drink and shop outside; families and all people can walk the street without exhaust and danger of cars and motorcycles; There has been an increased sense of community since the closure.
- Outside dining/drinking areas; trees and plants (even increasing this); Lighting (i.e. string lights, holiday lights, etc.) to brighten up Mill St in the evening; Water station; Restrooms – trailer ADA
- Level street, no cubs; keep the historic charm; Provide solution for heating in outdoor dining/drinking businesses; also rain cover; address 21 and over areas
- 4. Cork 49 will use as much area in front of our business for win/beer and small bites, music outside or inside (on occasion) (to survive this pandemic)

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Heather Jansama (local resident since '78) Cork 49 also DT resident

- More foot traffic that is safer for all, especially families and those with disabilities; more "square footage" for seating which means we can serve more guests; quieter with traffic gone to enjoy Mill St. whether dining or shopping; community support has been amazing to see.
- Tables; bathrooms (public); Plants and trees for shade, fountain; Drop-off areas for those disabled and/or movies; parklets on Main for other businesses
- Keeping it "historical" looking. Not too modern; Building across LaTeDa, GameStop and Cork 49 is in great disrepair and the only ugly building on Main; ADA compliant; heating for winter and outdoor covering to still serve outdoors
- 4. For seating more guests than our inside seating can handle. This would likely add to more employment. Music on occasion or special events.

Ian Moll

Watershed at the Owl

- 1. Much improved atmosphere no vehicle traffic and noise; is a draw for the public; people out more of the day
- 2. Improved lighting for safety and aesthetics; more landscaped green space including a water/fire feature; cobbled streets integrate Mill with Main for pedestrian ease and atmosphere
- 3. Match the design to the aesthetic of the town
- 4. Outdoor dining

James Hill

Crystal Empire Gems LLC

- 1. Family environment, safe to walk through; outdoor dining environment; increased foot traffic in businesses
- 2. Fountain, water feature; planters with underground drainage; full time maintenance and security person; cement tables and benches
- 3. Clean and not overbearing design and public restrooms
- 4. Hosting specialized vendors and small events or demonstrations in a 10'x10' area, general benches would be useful

Marc Evans

Evans' Furniture

- 1. Increased foot traffic; unified business feel; decorations and more events
- 2. Drop off areas on Mill St near theater; seating and planters
- 3. Drop off areas for ADA; parking designation and enforcement; trolley car or mine cars to shuttle people from parking lot
- 4. –

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Alyssa Orellana Champagne Jane

1. Fun community-based environment; music on the street; step towards being really beautiful

- Major lighting improvement on Mill and all the way to parking areas Parking added on either end of Mill. A public toilet located centrally, maybe in Chruch St lot or along Bank St.. Bike/skate designated lane. "Biergarten." Kid zone between Neal and Bank. Seating for more than eating; activity space/yoga/tai chi etc.
- 3. Accessibility, room for events/entertainment, lighting, shade for summer/shelter for winter

Eileen Hancock

The Union Building (Body Balance Academy, Lifelong Health (nonprofit), Tae Te Café)

- The Mill St. closure provides a safe place for families to walk, shop, and enjoy good food, music, and performance. The closure brought our community together and strengthened our youth and ultimate preserved our businesses and community.
- I would like to see the open space maximized and clean and consistent space for outdoor events and performances as well as outdoor dining. Perhaps planters move to the outer edges and sides of the streets, so that it flows and feels spacious and open.
- 3. Flow, open, fun
- 4. Kung Fu performance, live music, dance, outdoor dining

Lillie Piland

Yuba Blue

- 1. The people/shoppers it has brought to town; The lively feel the street has now, great energy; It's pretty!; the community is excited about it
- 2. Programming music, events, holiday décor; homogeneous look and feel; lighting, plants, wayfinding; Don't make it a hokey mining town. Let's be progressive and attract those people!
- 3. Homogeneous look and feel; cleanliness, lighting, plants, holiday/seasonal changes, a system for all users of outdoor space to use to book events, pay for usage (restaurants, musicians, event planners)
- 4. We would like all our entrances to remain clear of other users. We will pull merch out on sidewalks for sales etc. Happy to be a "hub" for Christmas tree, etc.

Christine and Phil

Cake Bakery and Café

- 1. Family friendly safer! Quieter cleaner
- 2. Fountain
- 3. Keeping historical charm, keep cohesive look
- 4. Outdoor dining and drinking

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Sandy Van Delinder Heart and Home

- 1. Visibility of store windows; gathering place; peace and quiet when doors are open
- 2. Planters with trees and greenery; seating areas with umbrellas; water features; restroom access; inviting entrances at both ends of Mill Street
- 3. Keeping the historic look and feel of Grass Valley
- 4. Occasional seasonal product at storefront

David Van Delinder

Heart and Home

- 1. No cars and motorcycles speeding past; people walking about, sense of community; Not worrying about employees parking on the street
- 2. Trees; tables and benches; planting areas; interesting features, art fountains, etc.; restrooms; dog poop pick up stations
- 3. Aesthetics, cohesiveness of design; Making sure that it is charming and comfortable for all; Historic aspect is important
- 4. Maybe some product. We don't mind a bench or table for people to sit at.

Barbara Getz

Del Oro Theatre

- 1. Opportunity for people to be together in a public space during Covid 19
- 2. Excellent drop of and pick up spots at either end of Mill St.
- For our business access to the front of the theater for families, older patrons, and disables is important. Our handicap entrance is off Neal St. – please consider that access point in the design
- 4. We often have lines of people waiting to buy tickets or enter the theater.

Karen Lian

Lola and Jack

- 1. Easier delivery access; brings more families and business; less pollution
- Central toilets; Old fashioned tram line to park n ride; Access for disabled and handicapped; wheely lane-bike lane (and skateboard/roller skate); Outside seating for rest and cafes; better lighting; kid zone; more community policing; morning Tai Chi
- 3. Toilets; delivery access; parking; shade and shelter; don't have too loud music!; historical connections; empty the bins and clean the sidewalks
- 4. Paint classes for children and demonstrations. Outside game space (dominoes, cribbage, chess), retailing vintage

Susan Escano/Chris Escano

Vintage on Mill

- 1. Nothing
- 2. Parking; front street access to business for delivery and pickup (no other access)

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3. Access! Parking

4. We would not use

Rosie

Swenson's

- 1. It has not helped my business at all not enough parking for quick trips and my older customers cannot climb hills.
- 2. How are you going to bring people out in 90 degree heat and 45 degree rain?
- 3. Getting people to walk down the sidewalks instead of down the middle of the street
- 4. Not at all

Paula Newman

Lazy Dog Chocolateria

- 1. I don't like it at all
- 2. More parking, more ADA parking
- 3. Absolutely no fountains or fire pits, no play structures
- 4. Tables and chairs outside dining

Wrynna Kohler

Native Wren

- 1. I would like to see seating and planters
- 2. Plants, seating, make it feel like a Victorian town
- 3. Keeping access to the doors of the shop. Keeping the environment cohesive to the town. Victorian-modern.

Deborah Hill

Crystal Empire Gems

- 1. No cars; community friendly culture; increase of businesses and visitors
- 2. Fountain; benches; rock features with plants; see Burlington VT Church St
- 3. Safety with curbs, Main Street crossing; signs for parking and bathrooms and stores; water feature; benches
- 4. Rock sale kids permanent dig

Penny Short

Tess' Kitchen Store

 Honestly...Nothing. I signed my lease knowing that I had accessibility for my customers and visibility for all those who walked or drove by. It has, to date, brought in more customers due to the change, but it has decreased the sales volume between 9 and 11am, and 4 and 6pm. It has also driven up my payroll by 8% to date due to additional staffing needs for "carry outs". Due to the size and weight of many of our products, we do "carry outs" 3 to 15 times per day.

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- 2. Restrooms; close enough, easy to locate curbside pickup locations for customers making large purchases or wanting curbside pickup; transport to and from all lots on Mill Street.
- 3. Appropriate and appealing seating areas with adequate trash can access that is NOT homeless friendly. Directory at both ends and perhaps also in the middle that lists all merchants and current events. It could also function as an advertising location.
- 4. Possibilities knife skills demos and other types of food prep/serve classes or demos.

Robin and Lisa Buckman

Old Town Café

- 1. The families that enjoy the downtown; the outdoor dining; safety for pedestrians. Do not modernize it! Maintain historic architecture!
- 2. We would like to see water features that families can get wet in. Stages for music, entertainment, and areas that are available for merchants to have racks out as well as places for movie night.
- 3. Family entertainment things for kids to do like water fountain, water playground; dropoff and pickup points for elderly and disabled as well as convenience to customers. Fire pits too!
- 4. Work and family gathering with dining outside, movies, game night, beer and drinks parties, holiday fun, etc.

Laura

Corvus Bakery

- 1. Family safe and friendly; I love the absence of sound pollution; Outside dining areas
- Planted trees. I would like to see a planted area at the beginning of each side of the closed street to mark the beginning of the pedestrian area. Cobblestone and good patio areas. Nice lighting.
- 3. Being careful not to obstruct the view of storefronts is very important. I do hope that the street is consistent in its design.
- 4. We would use permanent dining areas (not parking space)

The above constitutes our understanding of the issues discussed. If no comments are received within 5 business days of the date received, these notes will be assumed correct as written.

Respectfully submitted by: Atlas Lab Inc. Brenna Castro Carlson, Landscape Architect Distribution: Attendees



