



**City of St. Helena
Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
June 16, 2025 @ 5:30 PM
Carnegie Building - Second Floor
1360 Oak Avenue**

PLEASE NOTE: Any person who wishes to speak regarding an item on the agenda or make a comment under the "Oral Communication" portion of the agenda may do so, but please observe the time limit of four minutes.

Simultaneous Spanish interpretation services during meetings can be scheduled upon request. To ensure interpreters are available, requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance by calling the Office of the City Clerk at (707) 968-2640 or emailing cityclerk@cityofstheleena.org

The schedule of upcoming meetings and published meeting agendas can be found on the City of St. Helena website at [/portal/](#).

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Page

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
Commission Chair: Doug Boesch
Vice Chair: Jim Anderson
Members: Courtney Andrain, Stephanie Smithers, John Thompson
Youth Advisory Member: Henry Ray
Staff Liaison: Dave Jahns, Community Services Director
3. PUBLIC FORUM:
An opportunity for the public to directly address the Commission on items of interest to the public that are not listed on the agenda. Any person addressing the Commission should provide his or her name and address, and limit comments to four minutes. Because of restrictions imposed by **the Brown Act, the Commission may not engage in substantive discussion, nor take action on matters not described on the agenda.**
4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMISSION
Reports by staff and/or commission on items of general interest. Brief questions for clarification may be posed and answered, and Commission may request that items be placed on a future agenda. Except under certain circumstances, **the Brown Act prohibits any other discussion or action by the Parks and Recreation Commission.**
 - 4.1. City Staff
 - Parks Maintenance Update

- Recreation Services Update
- 4.2. Commissioners Update
5. CONSENT CALENDAR:
Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission or the public may ask that any items be considered individually for purposes of considering alternative action, for extended discussion, or for public comment. Unless that is done, on motion may be used to adopt all recommendation actions.
- 5.1. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2025 4 - 7
[Draft Minutes 05.05.25](#)
6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:
- 6.1. Receive a presentation and provide a recommendation to City staff and City Council on whether to proceed with the proposed Saint Helena Porchfest event 8 - 41
Prepared By: Dave Jahns, Director of Community Services
[Staff Report Porchfest](#)
[NVMA-Maps Packet.pptx](#)
[Porchfest Host Agreement](#)
[Saint Helena Porchfest 2025 Traffic and Pedestrian Control Plan](#)
[Public Comment M. Holt](#)
[Public Comment M. Wilson](#)
[Public Comment P. Rich](#)
[Public Comment A. Meraud](#)
[Public Comment C. Regalado](#)
[Public Comment D. Lange](#)
[Public Comment E. Galbraith](#)
[Public Comment M. Wagner](#)
[Public Comment R. Sheehe](#)
[Public Comment O. Dodd](#)
[Public Comment K. Brotemarkle](#)
[Public Comment K. Phinney](#)
- 6.2. Receive a presentation and proposal from representatives from the St. Helena Bocce Advisory Committee to install shade coverings at the south end of the Crane Park bocce courts. Provide feedback and direction to staff 42
[Bocce Shade Coverings](#)
- 6.3. Discussion regarding the Commission's upcoming annual report to City Council
Prepared By: Dave Jahns, Director of Community Services
- 6.4. Receive an update on a mural to be temporarily installed at Lyman Park in partnership with Nimbus Arts 43
[Mural Images](#)
- 6.5. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Updates 44
[PRC 2024-25 Goals and Committee Assignments](#)
- 6.6. Recognition of Outgoing Commissioners

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for July 21 at 5:30 pm, Carnegie Building, 1360 Oak Avenue.

This agenda was posted at City Hall, 1088 College Ave and 1360 Oak Avenue on June 13, 2025.

/s/ Dave Jahns

Dave Jahns, Community Services Director

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact City Hall at (707) 967-2792. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II). However, City staff will attempt to assist at any time with accessibility.

**City of St. Helena
Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting
May 5, 2025 @ 5:00 PM
Carnegie Building - Second Floor
1360 Oak Avenue**

1. **Call to Order** 5:03pm
2. **Roll Call**-The following were present:
 - Chair: Doug Boesch
 - Vice Chair: Jim Anderson
 - Members: Courtney Andrain, and John Thompson, Stephanie Smithers
 - Youth Liaison: Henry Ray
 - Staff Liaison: Dave Jahns Director of Community Services, Ashley Sylvester Recreation Manager, Carlos Uribe Assistant Operations Manager , and Joe Leach Public Works Director
3. Reports by Staff and Commission
 - 3.1 City Staff
 - Parks Maintenance Update
 - Operations team worked on preparing Meily park for the ribbon cutting
 - Park maintenance is working on skatepark weed removal, irrigation repair and planting drought tolerant plants
 - Replanting trees at at the Elm Tree tunnel and installing irrigation
 - Working on replacing recycling and trash receptacles in remaining parks
 - Commissioner Smithers inquired if the skate park irrigation has been fully replaced and now functional
 - Commissioner Smithers asked if the plants at Mennen park will be pollinator plants, as was the original intent of the park donor
 - Chair Boesch inquired about the challenges of maintaining the skatepark with all of the work that has gone into improvements
 - Uribe expressed it has required additional time, but hopefully the improvements will require less weed abatement and attention in the future.
 - Public comment - stated Jacob Meily looked unfinished with tractor tracks in the mud, located near the river
 - Uribe explained that he will look into it and address that concern with staff
 - Recreation Services Update
 - Registration now open for soccer and summer camps
 - Summer Bocce and Adult Softball are underway

- Registration for the Napa Valley Pickleball Classic are open
- Community Soccer Night taking place on May 30th
- Staff are working on preparing for the summer concert series, beginning June 18.
- Fundraising in progress for the 4th of July. Can move forward with fireworks if \$30k in community donations are received by end of May, per City Council direction.

3.2 - Commission Reports on Matters of Interest

- No items to report

4. Consent Calendar

4.1- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of February 18 and March 24

- Motion to approve: Anderson; Second: Boeschen
 - Approved: Unanimous

5. Scheduled Matters

5.1 Presentation of Proposed 2026 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program

Presented By Joseph Leach, Public Works Director and City Engineer

(Moved to Later in Agenda)

5.2 Presentation and Feedback on Proposed St. Helena Porchfest Event (item taken out of order)

- Director Jahns gave an overview of the proposed event and informed commissioners that the intent of this meeting is to be informational and provide feedback to the event organizers.
- Rachel Clark, Ernie Schlobohm, and Aelx Weeks presented on behalf of the organizing committee; providing a more detailed event proposal.
- Commissioner Andrain had logistical questions about the event; Clark responded that they are still working on details
- Commissioner Thompson was interested in the safety aspect; Clark responded that they will be doing a training for volunteers and that safety is the biggest priority
- Commissioner Smithers expressed gratitude for the efforts they are putting into creating something fun for the community
- Commissioner Smithers followed up with logistical questions like crowd control, and how they would keep it local
- Public comment - Kim Phinney. Expressed her concerns with the event proposal and frustration over receiving a late notice on Friday afternoon for the proposal being at tonight's commission meeting. Questioned who would be responsible for liability of attendees. Suggested that they find community members who would like to do this event and go that route

- Public comment from a community member expressed concern about parking for bands and attendees, as well as the crowd control, trash, smoking, and who will be paying for police.
- Public Comment - Marissa Nokes. Expressed not being in support of porchfest and was concerned that the notices were given too late. Nokes wants to know where they would have to park, concerned that the bathrooms are too far, and that the liability responsibility on homeowners.
- Public Comment - Leslie Stanton. In favor of porchfest
- Commissioner Smithers recommended that St. Helena Porchfest work collaboratively with neighbors. Concerned about timeline to gain council approval before Labor Day.
- Commissioner Thompson expressed he is in favor of the concept and thinks there is an opportunity to work with the neighbors to address certain concerns
- Commissioner Andrain wants neighbors concerns to be taken into consideration, perhaps starting smaller this year and building in the future
- Chair Boeschen wants community communication and collaboration, and thinks it could be a strong event for the community.
- Director Jahns shared that the next steps would be working with the organizers to incorporate feedback received, finalize event submission materials, and ultimately the proposal would need to move before the City Council for final review.

5.1 Presentation of Proposed 2026 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program

- Public works Director Leach provided an overview of Capital Improvement Programs,, the sources of the projects, program highlights, funding information as well as funding opportunities
- Director Leach showed last years CIP and where there have been changes in the last twelve months.
- Commissioners asked Director Leach clarifying questions about parks specific projects, modifications to the timeline, and project delivery.
- Commissioners requested that in future years the CIP come to them earlier in the process so they can provide more timely and meaningful feedback.
- Public Comment - Deanna Griffin mentioned that there is no CIP projects listed for the library. Concerned that 20% of the CIP was listed as Civic projects, but none specified for the library

5.3 Review Temporary Art Installation Proposal for an Artistic Bench to be Placed at Lyman Park

- Director Jahns presented the proposed art bench from the Chamber of Commerce and St. Helena Beautification Foundation.
- The bench was created by Simon Bull and proposed to be placed on the western edge of Lyman Park
- It is a temporary installation on loan at no cost of the City, other than installation and upkeep of surrounding area

- Commissioners expressed interest in the art bench at Lyman Park
- Public Comment - Deanna Griffin. Expressed that her background is in Art and that it would be an easy art piece to install since that area is already being maintained. Griffin also commented that it adds something as demonstration and willingness to act
- All commissioners were in favor of the art piece

6.3 Subcommittee Reports and Park Updates

- Director Jahns updated commissioners that staff have been meeting with Blue Point every other week for the Parks Master Plan
- Commissioner Andrain asked if staff could share the flash vote
- Chair Boeschen shared that they have been working closely with the Cameo for a spanish language film series, there is approval from the city and will begin working on promotions
- Chair Boeschen expressed there are still improvements that can be made to Crane Park
- Vice Chair Anderson requested that there be weed whacking around the pickleball courts
- Commissioner Thompson was grateful of public works help with Jacob Meily and expressed that everything looked great
- Commissioner Andrain said that the Bocce courts looked great

Adjourn 7:25pm

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Doug Boeschen, Commission Chair

Dave Jahns, Community Services Director



**Report to the Parks and Recreation
Commission
Commission Meeting of June 16, 2025**

Agenda Section: Scheduled Matters – Item 6.1

Subject: Receive a Presentation and Provide a Recommendation to City Staff and City Council on whether to proceed with the Proposed Saint Helena Porchfest Event

**CEQA
Determination:** Not a CEQA project

Prepared By: Dave Jahns, Community Services Director

BACKGROUND

The local organizing committee, Napa Valley Music Alliance, has submitted a proposal to host Saint Helena Porchfest on September 28, 2025. Porchfest is a free community event where musicians play live music on residential porches within a specific section of a community. Attendees are encouraged to embrace the walkability of the area, visit multiple performances, and enjoy the historic architecture of the highlighted residences. Similar events have taken place in various communities throughout the country, with the most immediate being hosted in Napa from 2011 – 2023.

The organizing committee presented their initial concept at the May 5 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. After receiving feedback at the meeting and discussing with City staff in the Fire, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Public Works Departments, the organizers have made several modifications and resubmitted a request for encroachment, amplified sound, and road closure permits.

The Commission is being asked to review the event from a community benefit/impact standpoint and make a recommendation to City staff and the City Council on whether to proceed as currently proposed. City Council is the governing body that has authority to approve road closure requests.

DISCUSSION

Following their presentation and community discussion at the May 5 Parks and Recreation meeting, the organizing committee has made modifications to their proposal. Below is a high-level event summary and list of changes since the Commission last reviewed:

Event Details:

- Date: Sunday, September 28
- Location: 12-15 porches within Adams/Kearney/Stockton/Tainter neighborhood
- Time: Event 12:30pm – 5:00pm
- Road Closures: 11:00am – 6:00pm
- Various genres of music, staggered set times
- Food vendors in various locations within the event footprint
- No alcohol sold or open containers permitted

Proposed Road Closures:

- Adams St., from Oak to Allyn
- Kearney St., from Pine to Adams
- Tainter St., from Oak to Stockton
- Stockton St., from Pine to Spring
- *Additional streets will be designated local traffic only. Please see attached map*

Notable Changes Since May 5 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting:

- Organizing committee is no longer working in partnership with St. Helena Historical Society; Proposal resubmitted by local organizers. Napa Valley Music Alliance non-profit application submitted, accepted, and currently pending with State
- Event maps modified and additional details provided. Allyn and portions of Tainter no longer included in the hard closure section
- Local traffic areas proposed to minimize event parking on select neighboring streets
- Addition of emergency access points to the event layout
- Utilization of a professional traffic control company to implement and manage road closures
- Utilization of Green Mary for trash/recycling/compost services, pre and post-event cleaning support, and a commitment to an eco-friendly event
- St. Helena police officers (2-4) assigned to the event. Final number determined by Police Department and will be based upon expected attendance as event date approaches
- Addition of neighborhood ambassador program. Volunteers who will support the flow of the event, provide information to attendees, and provide additional observation of event space and residential properties

The organizing committee is seeking City approval in order to move forward with planning and implementation of the event. Final approval of road closures and event will be at the discretion of the City Council. If approved by City Council, staff would then complete the permitting process for accompanying encroachment, noise, and road closure permits.

Notification of the proposed event and the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting

were distributed to the neighborhoods within the vicinity of the event footprint by the event organizers on June 6. The organizers will provide a presentation and be available to answer questions at the meeting on Monday evening.

FISCAL IMPACT

Due to the event being community-focused and free to attend, the event organizers have requested a fee waiver of the permit fees. All other associated expenses, including direct staffing time needed to support the event will be paid for by the organizing committee. Waiving of permit fees is at the discretion of the City Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Commission's role is to review the proposal and provide a recommendation to staff and the City Council on whether to proceed with the event as proposed.

The background of the slide is a vibrant, painterly illustration of a Napa Valley landscape. It features rolling hills with rows of vineyards, a bright sun in a hazy sky, and distant mountains. Musical notes and treble clefs are scattered throughout the scene. On the left, an acoustic guitar is partially visible, and on the right, a violin is shown. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by yellows, oranges, and greens.

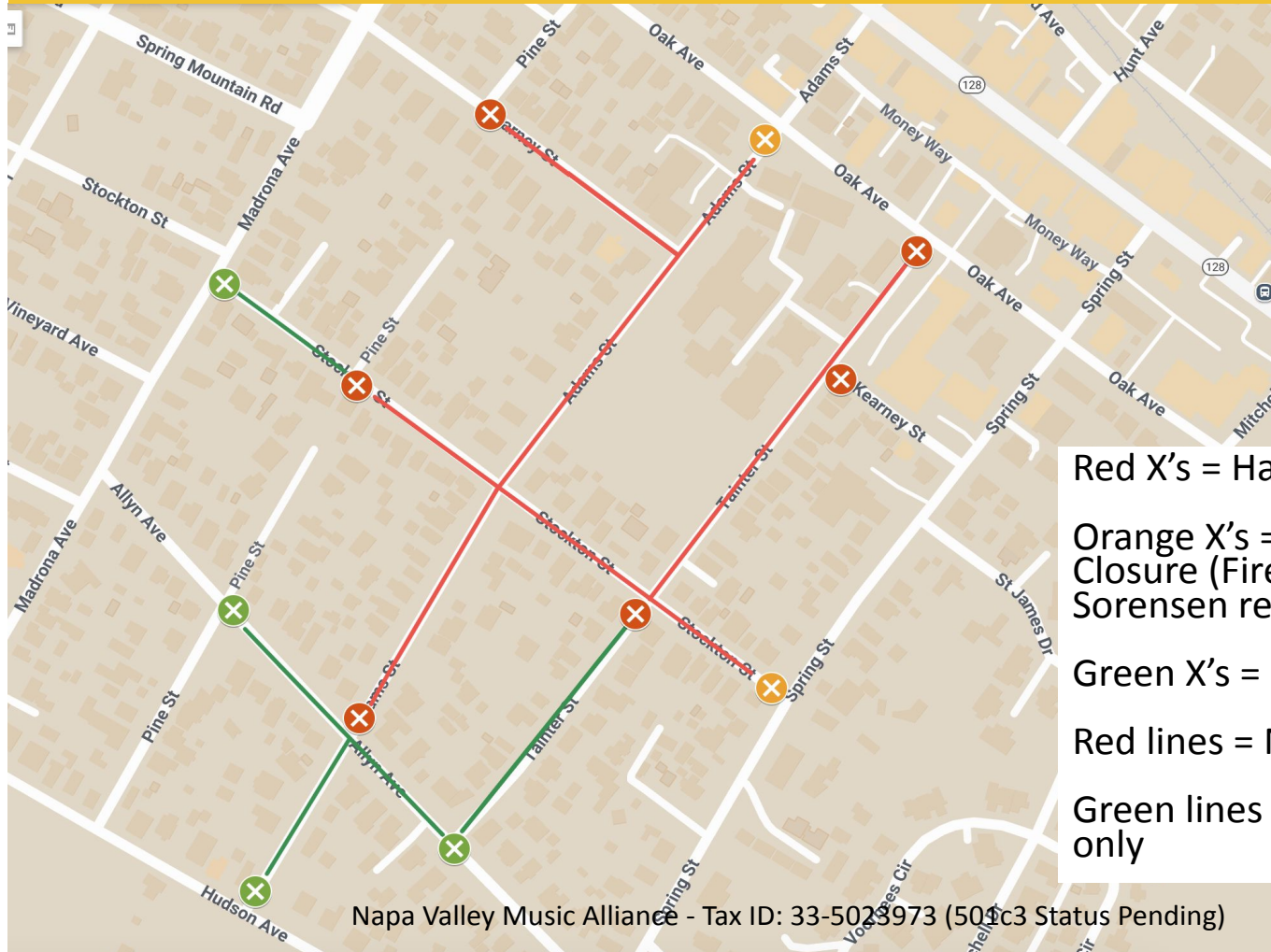
Napa Valley Music Alliance

Napa Valley Music Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advocacy, planning, and organizing of music and arts events in the Napa Valley while strengthening cultural and community bonds.

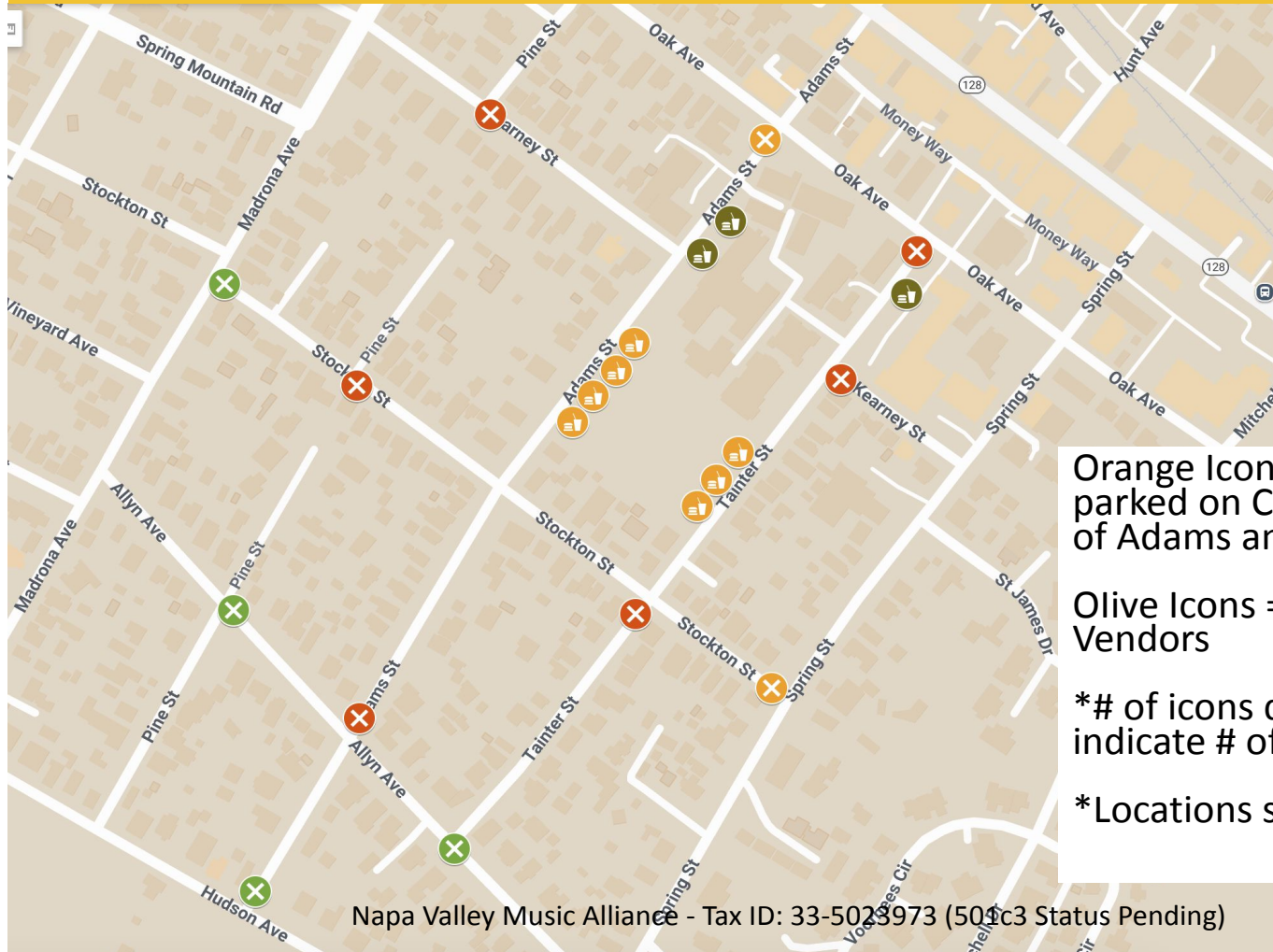
Rachael Clark
Alex Weeks

June 4, 2025

Proposed Road Closures



Food Truck / Popup Locations



Orange Icons = Food Trucks parked on Carpy Field side of Adams and Tainter

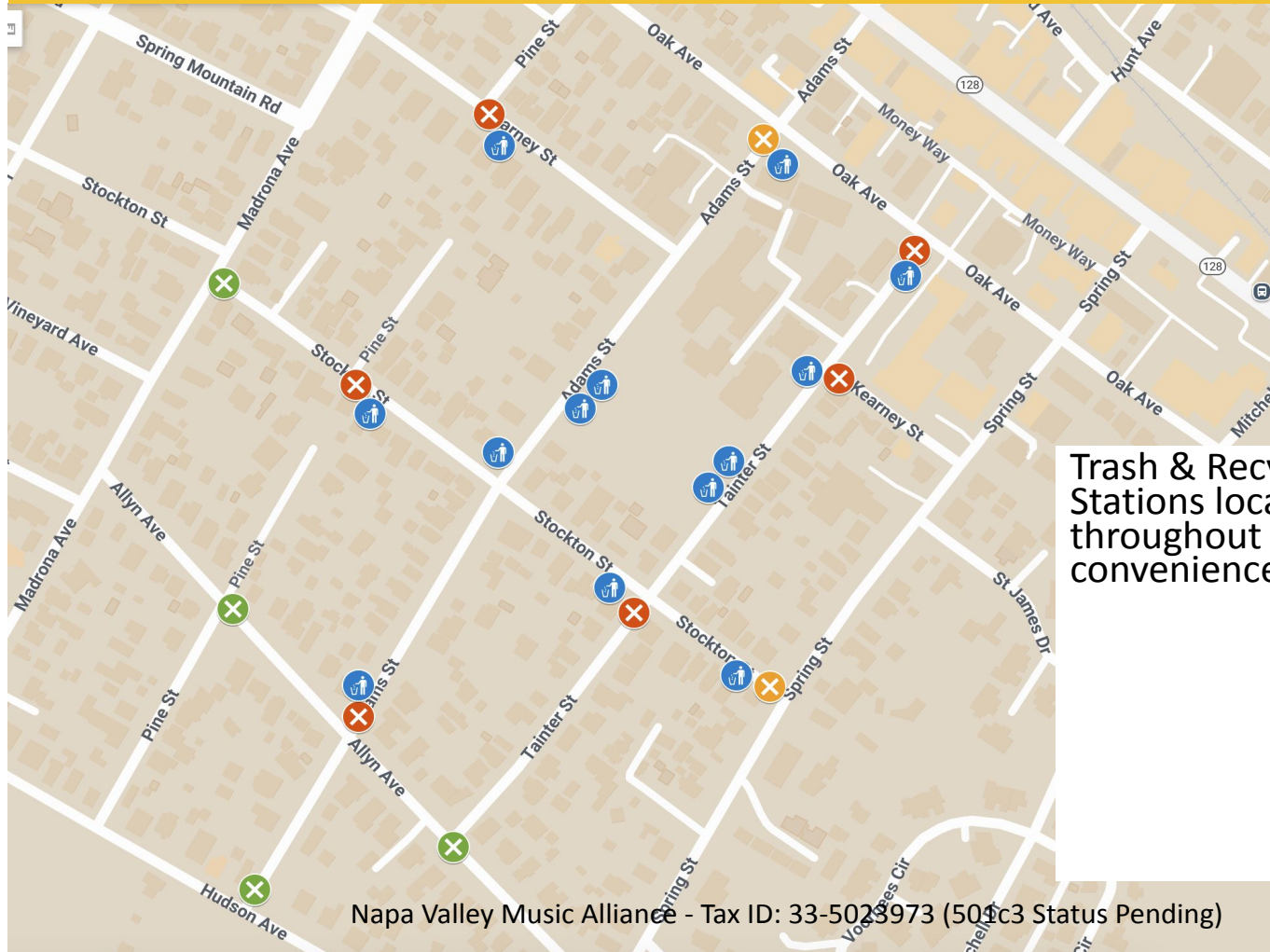
Olive Icons = PopUp Food Vendors

*# of icons does not indicate # of food vendors.

*Locations still TBD

Napa Valley Music Alliance - Tax ID: 33-5023973 (501c3 Status Pending)

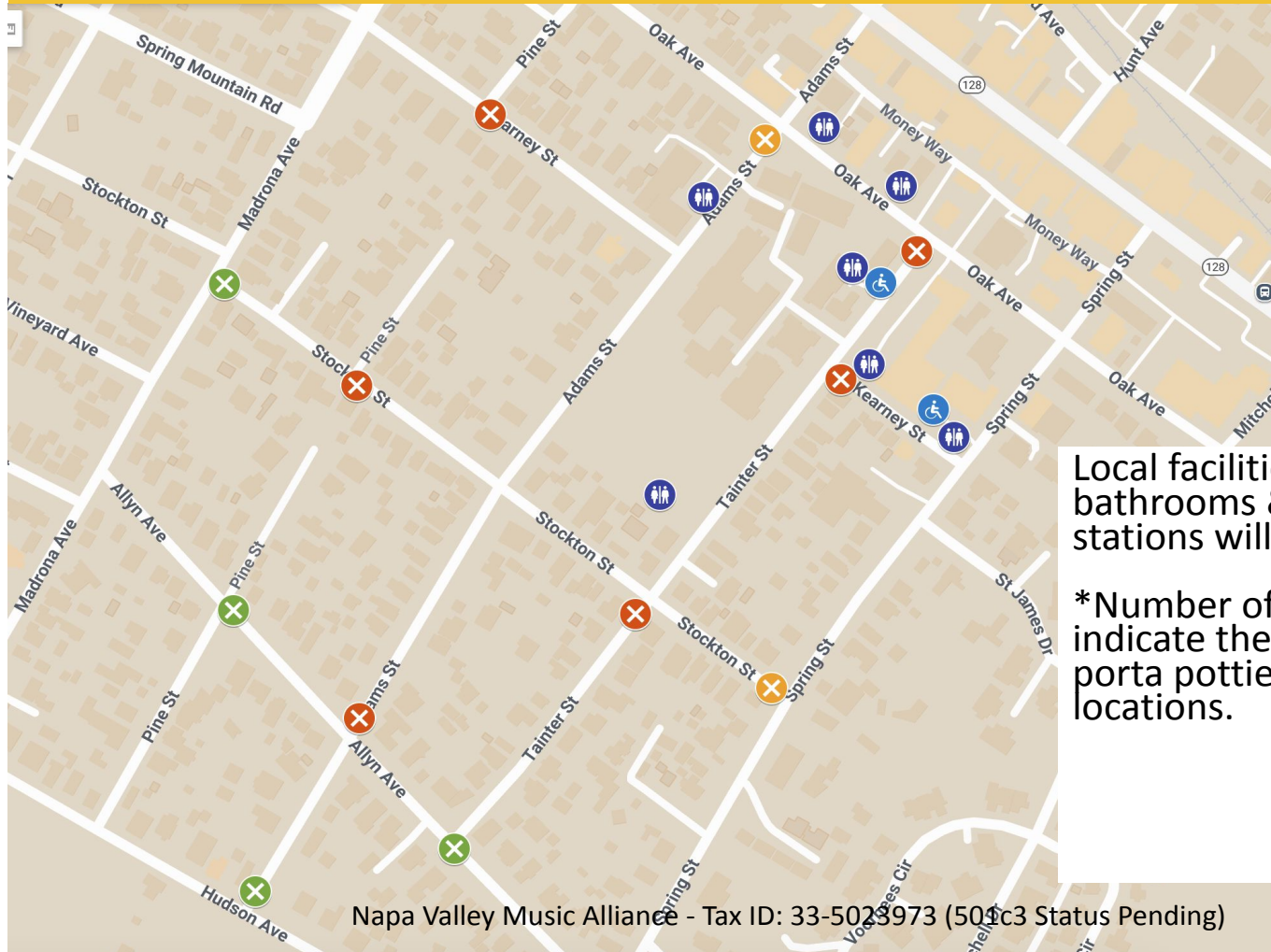
Waste Recycling Management



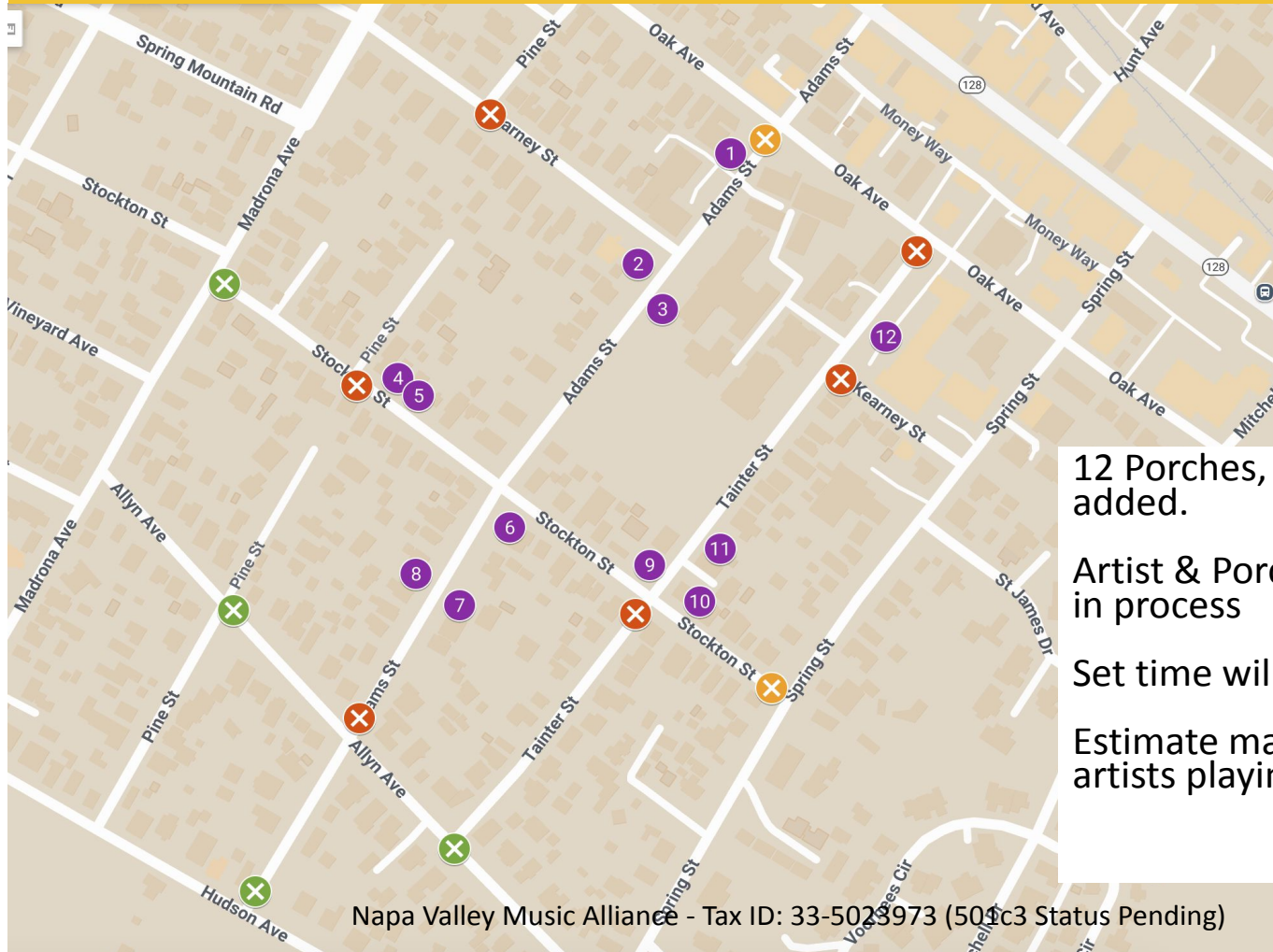
Trash & Recycling Sorting Stations located throughout the event for convenience.

Napa Valley Music Alliance - Tax ID: 33-5023973 (501c3 Status Pending)

Restrooms



Current Porches



12 Porches, up to 3 may be added.

Artist & Porch selection still in process

Set time will be staggered

Estimate maximum of 6-9 artists playing at 1 time.



Thank you!

Napa Valley Music Alliance presents: Saint Helena Porchfest 2025 – Porchfest Host Agreement

Event Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025

Event Time: 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Resident: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

This Agreement is entered into between **Napa Valley Music Alliance** (hereinafter referred to as "Organizer") and the undersigned property owner or resident (hereinafter referred to as "Host") for participation in the Saint Helena Porchfest 2025. Pending City of Saint Helena Council approval Host agrees to the following:

1. Host Responsibilities

- **Performance Space:** Host agrees to provide a safe and accessible space (e.g., porch, driveway, front yard) for musical performances during the event.
- **Utilities:** Host will provide access to electrical power (standard outdoor outlet) for performers. Hosts are encouraged to provide drinking water for performers.
- **Presence:** Host or a designated representative must be present at the property during the assigned performance times to assist with any needs and ensure the smooth operation of the event.
- **Artist Accommodation:** Due to road closures, performers are asked to complete the dropping off of any equipment requiring a vehicle before 11AM. Please provide a location where equipment can be stored during this time. Vehicles will not be allowed on

the roads again until after Porchfest finishes. Artists may need to keep equipment at your porch until roads open and they can get a vehicle to your residence. Artists will be responsible for their equipment.

- **Audience Accommodation:** Host may or may not allow attendees to congregate on their lawn or property to view performances at their discretion.
- **Communication:** Host will coordinate with assigned performers prior to the event to discuss setup, equipment needs, and any specific considerations.
- **Signage:** Host is encouraged to create and display a Porchfest sign to identify their participation in the event.

2. Safety and Compliance

- **Permits and Regulations:** Hosts acknowledge that the Organizer has obtained necessary permits for the event. Hosts agree to comply with all local laws and regulations, including noise ordinances. Any activities held by the homeowner outside of the St. Helena Porchfest hours are not covered by our permits and insurance.
- **Set Times:** Hosts will enforce strict adherence to assigned performance times. Performers must conclude their sets promptly to prevent overlap and sound bleed into adjacent performances. Each porch will have a break between performers. This is by design. Performers must stay within their set times. Violation of this may result in the Organizer shutting the performance down and may result in the artist not being allowed to participate in future events.
- **Neighbor Notification:** Hosts are encouraged to inform immediate neighbors of their participation in Porchfest at least two weeks prior to the event.
- **Food / Drinks:** It is recommended that porch hosts not serve/sell food or drinks to the public.
- **Drug / Alcohol:** This is a family friendly event. Host agrees not to serve the general public alcohol, cannabis, or other mind altering substances.

3. Liability

- **Participation Acknowledgment:** Porchfest is a community-driven event, and by volunteering to host, you acknowledge that you're doing so at your own discretion. While we do everything we can to make the day safe and enjoyable, the organizers aren't

responsible for any personal injury, property damage, or loss that may occur during the event.

- **Insurance Reminder:** We encourage all porch hosts to check with their homeowners or renters insurance provider to ensure they're comfortable with their coverage when welcoming guests and musicians.
- **Shared Responsibility:** By participating, you agree to help keep the event safe and respectful, and to hold the organizers harmless from any unexpected issues that might arise related to your property or activities during Porchfest.

4. Cancellation

- **Event Cancellation:** The Organizer reserves the right to cancel the event due to unforeseen circumstances, including but not limited to inclement weather or public safety concerns.
- **Host Cancellation:** If a Host needs to withdraw from participation, they must notify the Organizer as soon as possible to allow for adjustments in scheduling.

5. Agreement and Signature

By participating, the Host agrees to the terms and conditions outlined in this Agreement.

Please review this Agreement carefully. If you have any questions or require further clarification, feel free to reach out to the Organizer at alex@sainthelenaporchfest.com.

We appreciate your generosity in opening your space to the community and contributing to the success of the first annual Saint Helena Porchfest!

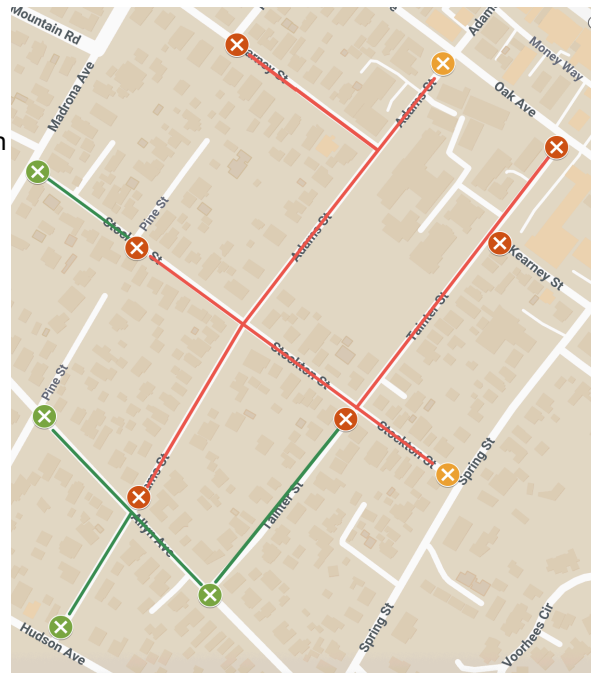
2025 St. Helena Traffic or Pedestrian Control Plans

The first annual **Saint Helena Porchfest** will be held on **Sunday, September 28, 2025**, from **12:30 PM to 5:00 PM**. The event features live music performances on residential porches within a walkable, closed-street footprint.

Please see attached quote from Bay Area Traffic Solutions (BATS).

Road Closures:

- **Closure Times:**
Road closures will begin at **11:00 AM** and end at **6:00 PM** on the day of the event.
- **Hard Closure Locations (proposed):**
Hard closure points prevent cars from entering the Porchfest Zone. Emergency vehicle access provided at 2 points noted below as “movable”, at the recommendation of Fire Chief John Sorensen.
 - Oak & Adams (Movable)
 - Pine & Kearney
 - Pine & Stockton
 - Adams & Allyn
 - Tainter & Stockton
 - Stockton & Spring (Movable)
- **Soft Closure Locations (proposed):**
The following intersections contain soft closure points. This will limit traffic to local residents and prevent visitors from parking on these streets.
 - Madrona & Stockton
 - Pine & Allyn
 - Adams & Hudson
 - Tainter & Allyn



Resident and Vehicle Access:

- **Restricted Access:**
For the safety of attendees streets within the Porchfest zone will be restricted to emergency vehicle access only between 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- **Parking:**
No non-residential vehicle parking will be permitted within the closed event area. Attendees shall park outside the closed zone and walk in.

Pedestrian and Event Flow:

- **Event:**
The event area is designed to be fully walkable and accessible for wheelchair users and ADA compliant.
- **Food Truck Zones:**
We have established designated areas for food trucks within the enclosed event footprint. Positioning the food trucks at different locations will effectively reduce congestion and promote a more enjoyable environment for attendees.

Staffing and Safety:

- **Volunteer Staffing:**
 - Two volunteers will be stationed at each road closure point from **10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.**
 - Volunteers will monitor access, provide directions, and assist with pedestrian safety.
- **Law Enforcement:** Local Saint Helena Police Department officers will be on regular duty and available for any emergency response if required. Opportunity for community policing. Officers on bikes, handing out stickers, and other forms of community engagement.
- **Indecent Response:** The St Helena Porchfest Committee is organizing a “Neighborhood Ambassador” team. Contact information will be provided to residents within the event zone. This team will respond to any incident or concerns that may occur during the event.

- **Emergency Response:** St Helena Fire Department and American Medical Response will be on regular duty and available for any emergency to respond if required
 - **Signage:**
 - No additional detour signage will be provided.
 - No special internal signage is required within the pedestrian zone.
-

Public Communication:

- **Resident Notification:**

All affected residents within the closure area will receive a **printed mailer** prior to the event, outlining road closure times, safety information, event details, and contact information for the Neighborhood Ambassadors..
- **Public Maps:**
 - Digital event maps showing closures, porch locations, and food trucks will be available on the **Saint Helena Porchfest website**.
 - Maps will also be available at the Information Booths during the event.

From: [mila holt](#)
To: [Recreation](#)
Subject: [External] Thoughts about Porchfest
Date: Friday, June 6, 2025 3:51:14 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing on behalf of the Porchfest proposal. When I heard the plan, I was pleased to offer up my front yard on Stockton Street. I like the idea of neighbors wandering, listening to music, and having a chance to socialize in this cheerful way. I imagine there will be some who will have a NIMBY attitude about an event that brings people together with some music, but it sounds to me as if the planners have ensured that the musicians will play at each venue for a short period of time, and it is after all just for one brief afternoon. I doubt these acts will be raucous or offensive. I'm in favor of creating memorable neighborhood events so that we can interact, be a community, and welcome like-minded friends. I hope that this proposal passes. Organizing like this should be rewarded not discouraged.

Sincerely,

Mila Holt

From: [Mary Wilson](#)
To: [Recreation](#)
Subject: [External] Porchfest
Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025 8:00:34 AM

As a resident of Kearney St...the section with the hard closure...I wish to state my disapproval of Porchfest. Where am I to park? Will the city provide dedicated parking for those of us unable to access our driveways?
Using a quiet residential area for a commercial event is unacceptable to those of us who don't choose to participate.
Sent from my iPad

Mary Wilson
1426 Kearney St.
St. Helena, Ca. 94574

707-529-4406

From: [Philip Rich](#)
To: [Recreation](#)
Subject: [External] Porchfest
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 12:14:28 PM

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my hearty support for the proposed St Helena Porchfest on 9/28. The Napa Porchfest is a joy and helps knit the community together. I am hoping that we can have the same success, here.

I have a scheduling conflict and will be unable to attend the meeting on 6/16 to lend my support in person. Too often, it is only the vocal naysayers who are especially motivated to attend public meetings. Please don't let those voices of disapproval overrule the best interests of the majority of St Helena residents.

Regards,
Philip Rich
1520 Pine St

To: Saint Helena Parks & Recreation Department

Subject: Support for Saint Helena Porchfest

Dear Parks & Recreation Team,

I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for bringing Porchfest to Saint Helena. As a local resident and singer in a classic rock band, I believe this event would be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the incredible talent within our community and attract visitors to experience the vibrant culture of our town.

Porchfest is a celebration of music and community spirit. It encourages artistic expression and brings people together in a fun, welcoming environment. Hosting this event in Saint Helena would not only highlight our local artists but also foster a deeper sense of connection among neighbors and visitors alike.

I would be thrilled to participate in Porchfest here at home, rather than traveling elsewhere to enjoy live music and community creativity. I hope you'll consider supporting this exciting initiative.

Thank you for your time and dedication to enriching our community.

Warm regards,

Alexandra Meraud

alexandra.meraud@gmail.com

707-880-7775

June 5, 2025

To the City of St. Helena Department of Parks and Recreation,

My name is Christopher Regalado. I live on the proposed route for Porchfest in a family owned home and operate a business here in St. Helena. While I'm relatively new to the city itself, I've lived and worked throughout the Napa Valley for many years and care deeply about the future of this community.

Much of my time in this region has been spent serving as a volunteer firefighter and EMS first responder, including work with 911 ambulance services and local fire departments throughout Napa County—often stationed right here in the valley. That experience gave me a strong sense of what community means, and what it takes to keep one strong and connected.

I'm writing today to express my full support for Porchfest.

To me, Porchfest is not disruptive—it's meaningful. It's a way for neighbors to connect through music and shared space, in a format that is voluntary, flexible, and low impact. It doesn't require large infrastructure or city resources, just a willingness to open a porch, play a song, or simply walk down the street.

I understand there are differing views about how and where community events should happen, but I believe there's room for both traditional city-sponsored events and smaller, resident-driven efforts like this one. Events like Porchfest don't divide a town—they help knit it together.

Thank you for your time, and for considering this as a small step toward a more connected and vibrant St. Helena.

Sincerely,

Christopher Regalado

Resident on the Proposed Porchfest Route

Business Owner – St. Helena, CA

Former Napa County Fire Volunteer & EMS First Responder



Alex Weeks <alexweeks1974@gmail.com>

St. Helena Porchfest

1 message

Duncan Lange <duncan.lange@gmail.com>
To: Alex Weeks <alexweeks1974@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 7:29 PM

To Whom it may Concern,

It has been bright to my attention that there is a group proceeding to organize a musical event modeled after the Porchfest held in years past down in Napa in our lovely town of St. Helena. As a longtime citizen of our town I am in complete support of this type of cultural and community based activity. St. Helena is a beautiful backdrop for a walking event like this, our backstreets and homes are vibrant places that should be shared. Showcasing talented local musicians will brighten our streets and neighborhoods, and give us the chance to show the warm hospitality I know lives around every corner of this beautiful little town. Local tourism will also benefit our shops and restaurants. I'm sure that an event here can be organized just as peacefully and successfully as the Napa counterpart has been.

Thank you - Dc

Duncan C. Lange
[1564 Voorhees Cir, St Helena, CA 94574](#)

June 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of St. Helena, a music aficionado, and a bandleader, I'm writing in support of St. Helena porchfest.

The porchfest will be a fun community event. As you know, a porchfest is a walkable event where residents volunteer the use of their porches and lawns to musicians, who in turn perform live music for the pedestrian audience. Several cities and towns in the North Bay and beyond have embraced the porchfest concept in their residential neighborhoods.

Opportunities for the community to gather and celebrate art and music are valuable. St. Helena porchfest can help spotlight the town's unique culture and create good vibes and positive memories for its residents. The fact that private citizens and musicians are voluntarily working to put together this event is commendable and an indicator of a healthy town.

I encourage the city to work with the organizers to provide the necessary approvals and support, so that this enjoyable event can take place.

Kind regards,

Evan Galbraith



Alex Weeks <alex@sainthelenaporchfest.com>

St.Helena Porch Fest 2025

Michelle Wagner <michelle.wagner@theagencyre.com>
To: Alex@sainthelenaporchfest.com

Sun, Jun 8, 2025 at 4:01 PM

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am in support of St.Helena Porch Fest. I feel it would be beneficial by fostering connection, enhance our community identity, and be fun for ALL AGES. It will provide opportunities for neighbors to socialize, learn new skills, and participate in local initiatives, ultimately leading to a stronger, more vibrant community. I believe it is a daytime event, with a start and end time. My home happens to be included in the area of the event and I am in full support. There are many young families on my street who are also looking forward to The St.Helena Porch Fest. Mostly the children.

Thank you

Michelle Wagner
Realtor #02063095
<http://www.theagencyre.com>
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Inline image

To: Saint Helena Parks & Recreation Department

Subject: Endorsement of Porchfest in Saint Helena

Dear Parks & Recreation Team,

I'm writing to express my strong support for hosting Porchfest in Saint Helena. As someone who deeply values community, creativity, and live music, I believe this event would be a wonderful addition to our town's cultural offerings.

Porchfest is more than just a music festival—it's a celebration of local talent, neighborhood spirit, and shared experiences. It brings people together in a relaxed, welcoming setting and creates opportunities for connection through music, food, and art.

I've seen the positive impact Porchfest has had in other communities, and I'm confident it would thrive here in Saint Helena. It would give residents and visitors a chance to discover the artistic voices in our town and enjoy a day of meaningful, joyful interaction.

I fully support and hope to see it come to life in our community. Thank you for considering this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rory Sheehe

From: [Olivia Dodd](#)
To: [Recreation](#)
Cc: [Rachael Clark](#); [Shannon Kollasch](#); [Ann Tuomey](#)
Subject: [External] Letter of Support
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 10:20:51 AM

June 13, 2025

City of St. Helena
Planning & Community Development Department
1480 Main Street
St. Helena, CA 94574

Dear City of St. Helena Officials,

On behalf of Amplifi Napa Valley, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed St. Helena Porchfest event.

At Amplifi, our mission is to promote a culturally thriving and connected community through inclusive programming and meaningful experiences. We believe strongly in the power of the arts to bring people together, foster local pride, and create opportunities for all generations to engage with one another. Porchfest aligns beautifully with this mission, offering a unique, grassroots celebration of music and community that is open to all.

We have seen firsthand the positive impact of Napa Porchfest—an event with deep roots in community collaboration and cultural enrichment. The Porchfest board, with its successful track record in organizing the highly regarded Napa Porchfest, brings a wealth of experience, passion, and proven organizational capability. Many of the board members also have longstanding ties to the St. Helena community, making them especially well-positioned to ensure this event reflects the town’s values and character.

St. Helena Porchfest promises to be a joyful, family-friendly event that invites residents and visitors alike to explore the town in a new way, experience live music in intimate outdoor settings, and celebrate local creativity. It represents exactly the kind of inclusive, community-centered programming that Amplifi Napa Valley is proud to support.

We encourage the City of St. Helena to embrace this initiative and look forward to seeing the event become a cherished tradition in your community.

Warm regards,

Olivia Dodd, CEO

c. 707-363-0395

w. AmplifiNapaValley.org

signatureImage



Kathi Brotemarkle
503 Fulton Lane
St. Helena, CA 94574
707-479-4538

City of St. Helena
Parks & Recreation Commission
1574 Railroad Ave.
St. Helena, CA 94574

Dear City of St. Helena and Parks & Recreation Commission,

I am writing to offer my support for the St. Helena Porchfest scheduled for September 28, 2025. I have been a St. Helena resident for 35 years and in that time have been very involved with the community as a member of the St. Helena Public Schools Foundation and the Upper Valley Women's Club, as well as volunteering for many other community events. I am also a member of the well-known Napa Valley Irish band, Kith & Kin. As a member of Kith & Kin I have in the past performed at the Napa Porchfest event. We found the event to be a very positive community activity. I am not aware of any negative feedback or problems related to Napa Porchfest. Attendees were respectful and enjoyed sharing a day of music with friends and neighbors. Our band has been accepted as one of the participants of the event.

I believe the St. Helena Porchfest would be a positive event for our community. I attended the Commission meeting where Porchfest was introduced and heard some residents' concerns. I believe with some logistical adjustments these concerns could be met with agreeable solutions. Whether it's parking, restrooms, security, or number of attendees, I think with the proper input from the event organizers, the City, Parks & Rec, and the police these issues can be dealt with. St. Helena has just a few free community events that bring our town together. I believe any time we can encourage locals to gather in a fun and healthy way it is a good thing. Sharing an afternoon of music in a safe and enjoyable way would be a wonderful activity for the residents of St. Helena. The organizers of St. Helena Porchfest are dedicated to making this a local event with all bands having at least one Napa County resident. They plan to keep marketing on a local level to ensure that it remains an event for our community.

I urge you to consider the positive effects of this event and hope that you will continue to work out the details to make St. Helena Porchfest a reality.

Thank you,
Kathi Brotemarkle

June 15, 2025

To: Dave Jahns - Community Services Director
Parks and Rec Staff
Volunteer Commissioners

Re: Proposed St. Helena Porchfest, Scheduled Matters – Item 6.1

Please excuse this public comment arriving after the agenda was posted for the Parks and Rec meeting on Monday, June 16th. I was waiting for more details that were not presented in the letter that the residents affected received on our porches on Friday, June 6th. The staff report, especially. I am unable to attend Monday's meeting.

First, I would like to thank Dave Jahns for his open and transparent communication. It is appreciated. I would also like to thank those who were involved in changing the route, removing Allyn Avenue as a hard closure. The change is appreciated.

I have several concerns about the proposed St. Helena Porchfest event that raise many red flags as a resident. It is incomplete. I ask that you, as a commission, take the time, if you haven't already, to do some more background work before deciding to recommend this event to Council, as proposed and according to the staff report presented for this meeting. As a volunteer commission, you can do much of the legwork to finalize details, answer questions, and solidify this event before costing staff, council, and others more time and money. We are in a financial crisis.

For the record, I am not opposed to a music event in St. Helena. I am concerned about this specific event moving forward as proposed at this time. Nor am I a NIMBY.

My questions and concerns are as follows:

1. The proposed Porchfest event needs to be treated as a commercial event in our residential neighborhoods. This is not a city-sponsored event, put on by community organizations. This is a private, currently for-profit, commercial event, seeking closure of residential streets. As stated by the organizers at the last Parks and Rec Meeting, Porchfest is a brand, happening all over, countrywide, not in any way unique to Napa County.
2. The nonprofit entity, Napa Valley Music Alliance (State of California filed May 14, 2025), is still in pending status, as you are aware. Until nonprofit status is approved (the IRS will tell you six to twelve months), this is a for-profit event. "Donations will become tax-deductible upon approval of our 501(c) status," according to the sainthelaporchfest.com website. NOT stated is what the donations and sponsorships are specifically for. Watchdog agencies (BBB Wise Giving Alliance,

Charity Navigator, CharityWatch, Guide Star, and the IRS, DOJ, State of California) claim this to be a red flag for donors giving to registered, even pending, non-profits.

3. Please take note of the information provided on the Statement of Information, filed with the state of California, for Napa Valley Music Alliance. This event is being pitched as a community event; however, only one of the five officers live in our community/St. Helena. Thank you Glenn Price for your years of work for the city of St. Helena and your expertise helping these organizers with the logistics of our city and how the public works department operates. The agent for Service of Process, as well as the CEO's (both), do not have addresses in St. Helena. Their addresses for the Office of the Secretary of State CA Nonprofit Corporation paperwork are all outside St. Helena. Are we comfortable with the idea of large-scale commercial event, first go for this newly formed organization, being thrown in our residential neighborhoods, closing streets, at the expense of all who live here, *for non-community members who are building a brand in our neighborhoods?*
4. Absent in the proposal and staff report is the proposed number of attendees, not even a ballpark. The number of attendees will dictate what safety measures will be put in place. Safety should be the biggest priority, so this is a large RED FLAG, not just for the residents, the hosts, but law enforcement.

At the last meeting Parks and Rec on May 5th that I attended, it was mentioned that this could be compared to Lyman Park music in the park, about 250 people. There are *serious* concerns with this calculation.

- a. Hard to compare this to Lyman Park since this is the first proposal of its kind in our residential neighborhoods, it's not put on by a city organization or staff, nor is it on city property. Again, this is the first of its kind here, but not in the rest of the country. The draw is huge. I ask you to think of the harvest festival, Fourth of July fireworks, Cheers. There are thousands of attendees, not hundreds. Even go as far as Blue Note Jazz Fest at Krug, current Andrea Bocelli event at Krug (still in town), and not free. Again, thousands.
- b. The closest comparison in a neighborhood could be Halloween on one small piece of Allyn Avenue. We get an average of 850 trick-or-treaters per household. We come up with that number based on how much candy all of us buy, how much our neighbor passes out, and the joke that instead of saying "trick or treat" kids now say "how many", so we are able to calculate the number of attendees very well and we all run out of candy every single Halloween. Year after year, the numbers increase. Obviously, not all children trick or treat alone; add one parent, two, and some grandparents, and that one piece of candy is attached to two more people. We are in the thousands again for an unorganized, unadvertised event. The similarity? This is a community event, and our street is closed due to safety concerns. Feel free

to ask me about the carnage during Halloween and the next day. Especially being a family-friendly, child-focused event.

- c. Napa Porchfest, I bring this up because we are now taking over this event. Ms. Clark claims to be a co-founder, now starting up in St. Helena. This experience comes with the rolodex, means of advertising, as well as PR connections that were mentioned previously (online and at the May 5th meeting). The bands each have a mailing list, and if you are performing, you notify your fans. Each resident will want to invite their friends, you get the idea. 12-15 porches, not counting band members and residents of the home, community that shows up, people from outside St. Helena (it is already in newspapers and publications, online, etc.). Again, we are talking about thousands of people.

****What number are you as a commission comfortable landing on to plan for safety needs while sending this proposal to the council?****

- 5. Speaking of thousands, also not on the proposal or staff report is an *actual* plan for parking. Where is everyone really going to park? Including the residents on the hard closure route? The proposal, not the staff report, says people will park *outside the zone* and walk in. This needs to be seriously considered, reevaluated, from a trash, bathroom, traffic directing, volunteer, parking limitation, resident not on the route, and enforcement aspect before proceeding as proposed. Residents do get tickets in front of their houses for parking the wrong way.
- 6. As an advertised non-alcohol event, what additional measures are going to be put in place to enforce this? No mention in the proposal or staff report.
- 7. Is the currently for-profit organizer able to accept liability for this event? Also not in the staff report or proposal is their insurance plan, liability coverage, responsibility in full, or waived responsibility. Seemingly peaceful, fun community events are great for the community, but are we prepared for the safety aspect, emergency response, and responsibility on the residents in our neighborhoods? I don't have rose colored glasses on all the time, as this is life, and our new realities are headline news daily. Financially, can our city handle this event? When you increase traffic, increase population, you add elements that are supposedly prohibited (alcohol, drugs, the like), it's just a fact. Is St. Helena prepared? Are the Residents with their own liability insurance?
- 8. I cannot emphasize enough the need for an answer on safety, plan, and control.
What is the current commitment of our own Police and Fire? Has our St. Helena Police signed off on this event as proposed, more than just providing feedback? Since we have a small police force, have additional resources been acquired and contracted? Has the Fire Department signed off on this event as proposed, more than just providing feedback? I do not see their recommendation, approval,

or final input. 2-4 officers on paper in the proposal is just not enough, we know that. I see that extra city staff time is to be paid for by the event organizers. Does this include Police, Fire, and backup?

9. There are no contracts for confirmed porch hosts submitted in this proposal or staff report. Are the porches on the map committed and if so, why are the contracts not included in the packet?
10. For those who do not want to participate and are on the hard closure streets, who find this to be a nuisance and depriving owners of the right to use their property (a few wrote letters on record), **how will they be compensated?** Nowhere in the staff report or proposal discussions is compensation for residents affected, before, during, or after.
11. At the last meeting, I stated during public comment that I spoke to Julianna Inman, Napa County Landmarks Board Member, in 2011, founder of Napa Porchfest, and the year it began. I suggested you speak to her and get the history of the event, how it came to be, evolved, grew, and with whom. It's worth the time to get the history, facts, if you plan on moving forward.
12. Napa is no longer hosting Porchfest. Do you know why, outside of what the local paper and organizers coming to St. Helena are telling you? Have you talked to Napa Police, Sheriff, residents on the route, or the Napa City staff? The background of this event and all that it entails, again it is well worth the time. This event was literally in our backyard (Napa) and is no longer happening. Please find out the inclusive details for yourselves. It's important.
13. All of these points bring me to the final point: a for-profit event, in our residential neighborhoods, with a fee waiver request. Waiving permit fees, fees in general, sets a precedent that opens a can of worms that I don't think we are ready for. Free permits for a for-profit event in our neighborhoods should be discussed prior to going to City Council and City Manager, collectively as a commission making decisions. For example, the city requires permits for home improvements, and insurance requires modifications to our homes to be in compliance to keep our homeowners insurance, and those require permits. We homeowners are the rate-paying, property tax-paying, insurance-carrying ones responsible for our maintenance and upkeep... can I please have those fees and permits waived? Even reimbursed?

No, this type of proposal is not 'illegal' according to our city code, but it needs to be considered with a fine-tooth comb and not just for the fun of the event and what it may (or may not) bring to our town, but the safety aspect, control of the event, and precedent set, not just with permits, but the event itself. Perhaps even reconsidered as a whole city code.

Please do not build this plane as it is flying at the expense of our residents, our neighborhoods, city staff, and resources. Sometimes things just need more time, don't add up, or the tone is off (pun intended). For me, this is one of them, and I want to be on record stating so. St. Helena loves shiny new things, we all do, but ignoring the details and very specifics typically doesn't end well. I encourage you to do more homework, get more details about the organization and the answers to the hard questions and more details, especially safety in numbers, before recommending this to City Council. Perhaps one more year is a good idea. Thank you for your time, it is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kim Phinney



BA20251073778



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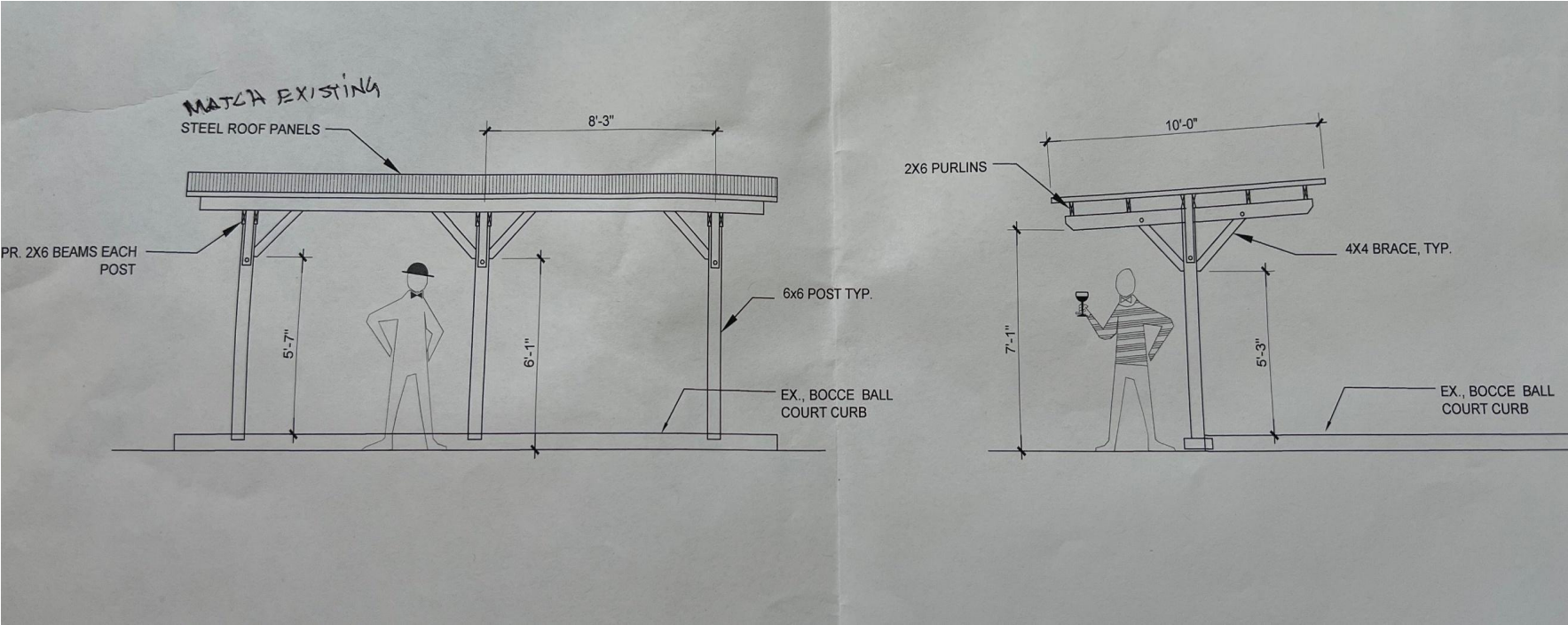
File No.: BA20251073778

Date Filed: 5/14/2025

B3688-8738 05/14/2025 12:51 PM Received by California Secretary of State

Entity Details			
Corporation Name	Napa Valley Music Alliance		
Entity No.	B20250110815		
Formed In	CALIFORNIA		
Street Address of California Principal Office of Corporation			
Street Address of California Office	1548 NOELLE WAY NAPA, CA 9458		
Mailing Address of Corporation			
Mailing Address	1548 NOELLE WAY NAPA, CA 94558		
Attention			
Officers			
Officer Name	Officer Address	Position(s)	
☒ Rachael Clark	6500 WASHINGTON ST YOUNTVILLE, CA 94599	Chief Executive Officer	
☒ Ernie Schlobohm	576 SEMINARY ST NAPA, CA 94558	Chief Financial Officer	
☒ Annie Schafer	3651 PALO VERDE ST. NAPA, CA 94558	Secretary	
Additional Officers			
Officer Name	Officer Address	Position	Stated Position
☒ Glenn Price	1603 DORIS CT. ST. HELENA, CA 04574	Other	Operations Director
☒ Alton Alexander Weeks	1548 NOELLE WAY NA, CA 94558	Vice President	
Agent for Service of Process			
Agent Name	Alton Alexander Weeks		
Agent Address	1548 NOELLE WAY NAPA, CA 94558		
Email Notifications			
Opt-in Email Notifications	Yes, I opt-in to receive entity notifications via email.		
Electronic Signature			
☒ By signing, I affirm that the information herein is true and correct and that I am authorized by California law to sign.			
Alton Alexander Weeks		05/14/2025	
Signature		Date	

Bocce Shade Coverings – Conceptual Drawing



Mural Images – 9' x 22'





ST. HELENA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2024-25 Goals and Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Assignments

1. Parks & Recreation Master Plan process (*Anderson and Andrain*)
2. Public Access to Community Recreation Facilities (*Anderson and Boeschen*)
3. Trails and Open Space (*Thompson and Smithers*)
4. Parks Enhancement Strategy (*Thompson and Smithers*)
5. Holiday Décor (*Anderson and Andrain*)
6. Parks & Recreation Grants (*Andrain and Smithers*)
7. Cross-Community Integration (*Boeschen and Thompson*)

Ongoing Subcommittees

- Public Art (*Anderson and Andrain*)
- Equitable Recreation (*Boeschen and Smithers*)
- Service Awards (*Andrain and Boeschen*)

Updated August 2024