



Agenda Abstract

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date:	Aug. 24, 2026
Department:	Planning and Economic Development
Agenda Section:	Consent
Public hearing:	No
Date of public hearing:	N/A

PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Planning Technician Dakotah Kimbrough

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

Subject: Special Event Permit – Outlandish Friday Night Ceilidh

Attachments:

Special Event Permit Application

Summary:

The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough plans to hold their Outlandish Scottish Festival on Sept. 25 – 26 in downtown Hillsborough and Ayr Mount. This will be split between a Friday Night Ceilidh downtown in conjunction with Last Fridays, and the full Outlandish Festival on the grounds of Ayr Mount. The festival is not subject to a special event permit as it is a ticketed event on private property and the parking capacity is planned to not be exceeded with use of a proposed shuttle service from Court Street to Ayr Mount, detailed below.

Setup for the Friday Night Ceilidh will begin at 4 p.m., running from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and breakdown completed by 9 p.m. An estimated 400 people will attend the festival throughout the evening, with peak attendance around 6 p.m. No alcohol will be sold, but goods and craft vendors, as well as prepared food and beverage vendors will be present. Organizers will be provided with the Single Day Tax Compliance Form. Equipment present includes speakers for music and four 10'x10' pop-up tents. Programming on site will include Scottish music, performances, and dancing on the Dickson House lawn, with activities then carrying over to the Old Courthouse lawn.

The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough will host the Outlandish Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. at Ayr Mount. Organizers are requesting that the length of Court Street be closed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. so that a shuttle service can move attendees from downtown Hillsborough to the grounds of Ayr Mount. It is hoped that with this service, the parking troubles from past events can be avoided.

Financial impacts:

Low, departmental-level costs associated with providing barricades.

Staff recommendation and comments:

Staff recommends approval.

Action requested:

Approve, approve with conditions, or deny the request to close Court Street from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sept. 26.