



January 26, 2017

Historic Preservation Commission
 City of Wildwood, Missouri
 16860 Main Street
 Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: **Updates on Projects---Initiatives---Efforts of the Historic Preservation Commission**

Commission Members:

The Department of Planning has undertaken a number of efforts relating to assignments made by the Commission and is providing updates relative to them. These updates are to ensure the direction of the Commission is met in these regards. The following updated items are provided for the Commission's consideration and discussion at tonight's meeting:

A. **Celebrate Wildwood 2017** - The major efforts for the Historic Preservation Commission relating to this event for 2017 include the following items:

1. Complete **Chapter Two** of the *Wildwood History Book*, which will cover the period of time from 1776 to 1865 (Revolutionary War to Civil War). The Department met with Jill Von Gruben on November 28, 2016 to discuss the Wildwood Historical Society's role in the preparation of this chapter. The Society assisted this year in the preparation of the book's first chapter.
2. Create a new theme for this year's booklet cover.
3. Develop new poster boards about preservation efforts in Wildwood, which would be displayed at the Celebrate Wildwood Event in 2017.
4. Prepare new Points of Interest for the Celebrate Wildwood Booklet, including the required mapping of them (draft attached).
5. Participate at the Celebrate Wildwood Event on Saturday, August 26, 2017, at the City/Founders Tent.

B. **Historic Marker Programs** – An update of the remaining markers for installation is as follows:

Community Name	Item Needed to Complete Installation
Kelpie	The marker is ready for installation and the Department of Planning contacted Lisa and Tom Kelpie about final placement details. The Department, given its schedule, has not been able to meet with the Kelpes to investigate locations in this community area of Wildwood.
Grover	The easement area has been defined on this private property, but the Department is seeking a nearby location in public right-of-way (<i>see plan sheet</i>).

Melrose	A plan for the use area has been developed where the marker is to be situated, which would include adding asphalt to the existing shoulder, thereby creating a pull-off area abutting the street for safe viewing.
Orrville	The evaluation of locations for the marker's placement is still underway, given concerns about safety and stormwater drainage along the edge of roadway (Eatherton Road).

- C. **Historic Preservation Training** – Please see included items that are part of this month’s packet.
- D. **Certified Local Government Annual Report** - The report, in its new format, was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on December 30, 2016.
- E. **City Project Updates** - The Department has been working on a number of projects that have ramifications relative to the Historic Preservation Commission. These projects include the following:
 1. **Al Foster Memorial Trailhead:** The majority of this project is completed. However, the Department had noted in its November 2016 Update Letter to the Commission, the restroom facility, originally planned for November 2016 timeframe, would now be delayed to a January/February 2017 timeframe.
 2. **Bellevue Farms:** The Department is glad to note a three (3) year extension to the City’s lease of this property with St. Louis County was granted by it. This additional three (3) years does allow the City to explore more options relating to the property and how to fund improvements to it and restore the buildings and structures located upon it. Unfortunately, Michael Allen’s (Preservation Research Office) assessment of the existing buildings and structures was not favorable for any of them to be placed on the State or National Registries. Mr. Allen’s assessment report is attached to this update letter.
 3. **Manchester Road Streetscape Project - Phase 3:** This last phase of the Manchester Road Streetscape improvements has the design and engineering components completed and City staff is now seeking easements and dedications of land area for abutting property owners to accommodate the addition of bicycle lanes, on-street parking, and stormwater infrastructure, along with landscaping. Manchester Road, through this project’s boundary, is the original location of Historic Route 66.
- F. **Essen Log Cabin** – The Department of Planning is defining the steps to provide the Karst Family, the donors of the Essen Cabin to the City, the verifiable value for the cabin for tax purposes relating to their donation. The Department has contacted Tim Kilby for assistance in this regard. It is the hope of the Department Mr. Kilby can provide the value for these logs, which can then be provided to the Karsts for their use in this regard.
- G. **Pond Inn Update** - The Department of Planning was advised at the end of 2016 the Pond Inn had been sold to RL Jones Properties. RL Jones Properties is the current owner of the Wildwood Square Commercial Property, which is located at State Route 109 and New College Avenue. Specific plans have not been discussed with the Department of Planning in regards to the use of the Pond Inn, but the new owners do want to remove the Pond Hall, given its poor condition. In fact, the City was advised the owners had already submitted the paperwork to St. Louis County for this demolition, but such cannot proceed until the City of Wildwood provides its authorization, which always begins with the Historic Preservation Commission’s review and action. It is important to note the site will have to be served by public sanitary sewer, given the tract of land is now located in the jurisdiction of the

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD). The new owners of this historic asset may seek incentives from the Commission for its restoration and reuse.

- H. **Historic Cemetery Property - Wild Horse Creek Road** - The property owner of this historic cemetery, where Elijah Hamilton may be interned, along with a number of other freed slaves, and the City continue their respective due diligences on its possible sale and the appraiser is working on completing the appraisal of this one (1) acre parcel of ground for review by the owner and the City. The appraiser has contacted the Department on two (2) occasions, since the November 2016 update, seeking more historical information on the property.
- I. **Others – Old Slave Cemetery Site** – Item for discussion.

Each of these projects has been discussed or acted upon by the Commission over the course of the last two (2) years and its input improved the outcome of such by its participation. Many of these projects are completed or nearing completion, so as City residents and visitors can benefit from them.

If any of the Commission members should have comments or questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on these matters at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this information and discussion of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF WILDWOOD

Joe Vujnich, Director
Department of Planning and Parks

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
The Honorable City Council of the City of Wildwood, Missouri
Ryan S. Thomas, P.E., City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Terri Gaston, Senior Planner