

**City of Wildwood**  
**Council Planning/Parks Committee**  
**“Planning Tomorrow Today”**  
*Minutes from the*  
**January 26, 2021 Meeting**

The Council Planning/Parks Committee meeting was called to order by Chair McCutchen, at 7:03 p.m., on January 26, 2021, at Wildwood City Hall, 16860 Main Street, Wildwood, Missouri, **in Virtual Format (Zoom Webinar).**

**I. Welcome and Roll Call:**

The roll call was taken, with the following results:

PRESENT – (8)

Council Member Clark  
Council Member Bartoni  
Council Member Nyhan  
Council Member Dodwell  
Council Member Rambaud  
Council Member Flaschar  
Council Member Garritano  
Chair McCutchen

ABSENT – (0)

Other City Officials present:

Steve Cross, Interim City Administrator  
Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

**II. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of December 15, 2020.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Flaschar, seconded by Council Member Nyhan, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020, meeting. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Chair McCutchen.**

**III. Public Comment (opportunity for the public to speak to any Action Item on Tonight’s Agenda).**

None

**IV. Action Items:**

**a.) Planning Matters – No Items Ready for Consideration**

## **b.) Parks Matters**

### **1. Accounting of City Donated Funds to the Pond Athletic Association (PAA) (Wards – All).**

Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett provided an overview of the yearly financial support provided to the Pond Athletic Association by the City of Wildwood. She reminded the Committee the financial support follows certain directives from the Parks and Recreation Action Plan. Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett advised the Pond Athletic Association provides a *financial accounting* that informs the City how the funds are spent each year, but noted for this report, statistics from 2019 are being provided. It was pointed out the funding/support in 2020 was not directed to be used for any specific aspect of the Pond Athletic Association, as much of the playing season was necessarily canceled due to the COVID Pandemic. The Committee was advised, even with most of the season cancelled, the cost to the Pond Athletic Association was still in excess of sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000.00) to maintain current facilities and conduct limited programming. Most of the 2020 funding was utilized for a portion of the training league expenses, individual field maintenance, general park maintenance, and umpire fees. Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett advised the 2021 payment was discussed at length, given the significant budget reductions of the City in Fiscal Year 2021 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The amount of support was reevaluated, and it was decided to reduce the annual support to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

Discussion among Committee Members included the following: the opinion the funding each year goes a long way to keep the Pond Athletic Association viable; the fact that over fifty percent (50%) of the Pond Athletic Associations league/teams are composed of Wildwood Residents; and the feeling registration for 2021 will be questionable, once again.

**A motion was made by Council Member Garritano, seconded by Council Member Flaschar, to authorize the release of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the City's annual support to the Pond Athletic Association (PAA). A voice vote was taken to approve the motion with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by chair McCutchen.**

### **2. Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax Initiative (Wards – All).**

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich provided an overview/history of Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax efforts in 2008, which failed when placed on the ballot. He noted the current effort to present a Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax is not driven by the Department of Planning and Parks, but instead by resident Committees (Parks and Recreation Update Committee and the Watershed Erosion Task Force). Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich acknowledged such a tax is likely the best resource that is currently available for the future concerning the park maintenance and watershed issues, but the timing with the COVID Pandemic might present a hurdle to success. He advised the Watershed Erosion Task Force is requesting/recommending a ½ cent sales tax, with no *sunset clause*, to be placed on the ballot in 2021. Further, it was noted a tax

of this nature is, for all practical purposes, universally applied by almost all the cities in St. Louis County. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich informed the Committee the Department is seeking *input* rather than *action* at the present time.

Discussion among Committee Members included the following: the opinion that a ½ cent tax is a bargain compared to some cities; the opinion the issue must not have been promoted adequately in 2008; the question of how the funds would be segregated between parks and the watershed issues; the opinion lumping the funding together for parks and watershed needs would present issues; the general agreement the funds the tax would generate is definitely needed; lengthy discussion how the tax could be promoted and why the City cannot encourage/promote the tax; lengthy discussion on several entities that could promote the sales tax (Action Plan Update Committee and the Gateway Off Road Cyclists (GORC)); the opinion the acceptance of such a tax would be difficult in Wildwood, since it is more of a *bedroom community* than other cities that have successfully promoted a sales tax; the estimate that such a tax *might* generate up to \$1.2 million dollars; discussion of a utility tax that would ensure all residents contributed; the opinion that utility revenues are declining; discussion on whether proposing a sales tax during the COVID Pandemic is a good idea; the opinion the Watershed Erosion Task Force should establish *doable* goals and not focus only on *big picture* accomplishments; the opinion establishing the internet in western areas of Wildwood would be a competing priority to the sales tax proposal; the suggestion the City should present an accounting to the Committee of how the funds from the sales tax are expected to be spent; the opinion the selected projects for these funds generated by the sales tax must *make the City better*; lengthy discussion on how to promote the sales tax; and discussion on whether the Community Outreach Task Force could advocate for the sales tax.

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised more information will be forthcoming at future meetings.

### **3. Prioritization of 2021 Parks and Trails Projects (Wards – All)**

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised the Committee that, despite the necessary budget constraints in 2020 and 2021, there are a limited number of projects that deserve attention. He provided a review/overview from two (2) areas:

*The City of Wildwood 2021 Capital Improvement Sales Tax Fiscal Year 2021, Source FY Funds 2021, Planned Project Expenditures, Park and Trail Development.* He noted there are ten (10) projects listed in this category, but they are not necessarily projects that *must* be undertaken. He advised the main focus in 2021 will generally involve completing the design processes for the City's Village Green Facility and improvements at Bluff View Park, then be followed by the engineering phases of both. In addition, initial steps are anticipated for the new Poertner Park, on Hencken Road, in terms of planning and preliminary design. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich also discussed a relatively large project involving the efforts of the Department of Public Works on the multiple-use trail segment from State Route 109 to Pond Road.

Director of Planning and Parks also discussed seven (7) other smaller projects that need *consideration* in 2021:

1. Design of hard-court area for Community Park;
2. Landscaping effort in Old Pond School Park;
3. Landscaping effort in Anniversary Park;
4. Trail development, from Glencoe City Park to the Al Foster Memorial Trailhead;
5. Bridge Maintenance along the Rock Hollow Trail;
6. Drainage improvements at Kohn Park, relative to North Eatherton Road; and
7. Electrical repairs at Town Center Public Plaza (for Winter Holiday Events).

It was explained that these projects could, in some regard, be funded through certain existing line items for park maintenance and consultant and contractual services. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised the Committee the list of projects would be addressed on a case-by-case basis and all projects would be presented to it, and the City Council, before any final decision is made.

**A motion was made by Council Member Dodwell, seconded by Council Member Bartoni, authorizing the Department to move forward with the *prioritization of the Park and Trail Projects*, as presented. An emphasis was placed on determining costs for each project. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Chair McCutchen.**

#### **4. Reimagined Spring Egg Hunt Due to On-Going Pandemic (Wards – All)**

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich explained the idea of a *reimagined* Spring Egg Hunt for 2021. He provided a history of the Spring Egg Hunt over the last fifteen (15) years, while reminding the Committee the Annual Event was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised that it is the Department's opinion, despite vaccines being available, the impact of COVID-19 would not accommodate this normally large and well-attended Spring Egg Hunt. In view of this circumstance, he advised the Department *brainstormed* a "different way" for the Annual Spring Egg Hunt to be held. The entire event will be held in front of Wildwood City Hall, residents can "drive by" and pick up a package of 15 plastic eggs per child in the family, with candy pieces inside. There will be entertainment in the form of clowns, Juggling Jeff, and a costumed bunny, who will interact with vehicle occupants, as they wait in line for their egg pick-ups. It appears the event can be presented with minimal interaction and staff. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich requested input/suggestions from the Committee to the format of the proposed *reimagined* event.

**A motion was made by Council Member Bartoni, seconded by Council Member Flaschar, encouraging/approving the Department to proceed with the *planning/organization of the reimagined Spring Egg Hunt*. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Chair McCutchen.**

## **5. Update on Virtual Recreation Programs and Events (Wards – All)**

The Committee was advised to review the attached memorandum and contact Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett with questions.

## **6. Update Report of Facility reservations, Event Registrations, and Ongoing and Long-Term Maintenance Costs for Parks and Trail Facilities (Wards – All).**

The Committee was asked to review the attached memorandum concerning the Ongoing and Long-Term Maintenance Costs for Parks and Trails Facilities for specific information and contact Assistant Director of Planning and Parks with questions.

### **c.) Executive Session Pursuant to RSMO 610.021 (2) – One (1) Item for Consideration**

**A motion was made by Council Member Bartoni, seconded by Council Member Garritano, to enter into Executive Session with regard to the lease, sale, or purchase of real estate (RSMO 610.021(2)).**

A roll call vote was taken, with the following results:

**Ayes:** Council Members Clark, Bartoni, Nyhan, Dodwell, Rambaud, Flaschar, Garritano, and Chair McCutchen.

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None.

The motion was declared approved by Chair McCutchen.

Time: 8:15 p.m.

**A motion was made by Council Member Bartoni, seconded by Council Member Nyhan, to adjourn the Executive Session with regard to the lease, sale, or purchase of real estate (RSMO 610.021(2)).**

A roll call vote was taken, with the following results:

**Ayes:** Council Members Clark, Bartoni, Nyhan, Dodwell, Rambaud, Flaschar, Garritano, and Chair McCutchen.

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None.

The motion was declared approved by Chair McCutchen.

Time: 8:32 p.m.

## **V. Not Ready for Action – Parks and Planning Matters – Six (6) Items**

No discussion.

## **VI. Other Matters**

Brief comment/question on the status of the proposed Noise Ordinance revision and if Dr. Thunder has provided information concerning the control of *road noise*.

## **VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment:**

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich and Chair McCutchen summarized the evening's meeting and **a motion was made by Council Member Bartoni, seconded by Council Member Nyhan, to adjourn. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with unanimous, affirmative result, and it was declared approved by Chair McCutchen at 8:34 p.m.**