



Wildwood Celebration Commission Minutes

Meeting Date:

- May 5, 2021
- 6:30 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Libby Wilson
- Cory Lawson
- Patricia Ward
- Vicki Helfrey
- Council Liaison, Joe Garritano
- Gary Crews, Staff Liaison

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Acting Chair Patricia Ward opened the meeting at 5:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Roll Call

A roll call of members was conducted, and the following individuals were in attendance, via Zoom Webinar Platform:

Commission Members:

Libby Wilson
Cory Lawson
Patricia Ward
Vicki Helfrey
Joe Garritano, Council Liaison
Gary Crews, Staff Liaison

Absent Members: Commission Members Sharon Hutson, Karen Stevens, Jaclyn Tripp, and Chair Susan Siebert.

Other Officials & City Staff:

P.O. Steve DeGhelder, St. Louis County Police – Wildwood Precinct
Sgt. Brad Wendling, St. Louis County Police – Wildwood Precinct
Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks
Ken McGohan, Boy Scouts of America

III. Approval of Minutes from the February 3, 2021 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, to approve the April 7, 2021 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Acting Chair Ward.

IV. Public Comments

There were no *public comments*.

V. Discussion of Scheduling and Logistics for The Combined 2021 Celebrate Wildwood and Art Festival Event

a. COVID – 19 Considerations/Updates

Director of Planning and Parks Joe Vujnich updated the Commission on the recent information made available on the existing pandemic. He noted the State of Missouri is considering relaxing current guidelines related to the COVID-19, as soon as May 17, 2021, which is considered a big step in trying to achieve some sort of *normalcy*. Overall, it seems health concerns are becoming less worrisome. According to the Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force, it is estimated that as much as seventy-five percent (75%) of St. Louis Areas residents should be vaccinated by mid-July 2021. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised, with the apparent positive news relative to the pandemic and the final decision of the Commission to hold the Celebrate Wildwood Event on September 25, 2021, the City can move forward with the first draft of the operational plan for submittal to the St. Louis County Department of Public Health.

b. Update on Event Components

Ken McGohan updated the Commission on the status of scouting activities for the 2021 Celebrate Wildwood Event. He advised that, to this point, he has been involved in two (2) planning meeting with scouting officials. Unfortunately, it appears he is not getting much positive response at all concerning interest in the Celebrate Wildwood Event. The *general consensus*, at this time, is to skip this year's event. Mr. McGohan informed the Commission that many troops have not recovered from the pandemic, with some disbanding. He did advise he potentially has three (3) activities arranged (tomahawk throwing, BB Gun Course, and cardboard box races). Further, he has not heard from, or contacted, the re-enactors, but hopes to talk with them soon. He advised Commission Members he will continue efforts to obtain commitments from scouting troops.

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich updated the Commission on current commitments to the Celebrate Wildwood Event. Summarizing, the event already has forty-two (42) booth slots filled, seven (7) food booths, music for the event; and six (6) children entertainment activities.

Discussion among Commission Members included the following: general agreement for the Department to reach out to local restaurants asking if they would be interested in participating in the Celebrate Wildwood Event; general agreement to reach out to additional *not-for-profit* groups (Endangered Wolf Center, Circle of Concern, Equine Assisted Therapy, Gateway Off Road Cyclists (GORC); Friends of Belleview, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Great Rivers Greenway (GRG), Missouri Wildlife Rescue, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and it was suggested to contact Passaglia's and/or Zick's Great Outdoors to see if any special decorations/amenities could be secured.

c. Event Grounds Layout – New Location

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich was happy to advise the Commission the 2021 event will once again be held at the open field east of the B&B Theater and on Main Street. Use of the field is not scheduled to begin until late December 2021, which allows for it to be used one more time for the Celebrate Wildwood Event. This change in venue location will make organization of the event much easier.

d. Other Items and Next Steps

Sgt. Brad Wendling advised the St. Louis County Police has been asked to provide displays for the 2021 Celebrate Wildwood Event, but commitments would not be received until later this summer.

The Department was asked to check on the status of the Wildwood Business Association (WBA) and whether the Memorial Lantern Ceremony is still a possibility.

A reminder the theme for the 2021 Celebrate Wildwood Event is *Twenty-Five Plus One*.

VI. Other Business for Consideration

None

VIII. Next Meeting Date

Consensus was reached on the next Commission meeting date, which will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Helfrey, to adjourn the meeting. Having no further business to discuss, and hearing no objections, a voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Acting Chair Ward. The meeting concluded at 5:38 p.m.