



Wildwood Celebration Commission Minutes

Meeting Date:

- August 4, 2021
- 5:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Libby Wilson
- Sharon Hutson
- Karen Stevens
- Patricia Ward
- Vicki Helfrey
- Council Liaison, Joe Garritano
- Gary Crews, Staff Liaison
- Chair Susan Siebert

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Siebert opened the meeting at 5:06 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
Sharon Hutson
Karen Stevens
Patricia Ward
Vicki Helfrey
Joe Garritano, Council Liaison
Gary Crews, Staff Liaison
Chair Susan Siebert

Absent Members: Commission Members Cory Lawson and Jaclyn Tripp.

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 Three (3) Meetings of the Commission

May 5, 2021; June 2, 2021; July 7, 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Hutson, to approve the meeting minutes of May 5, 2021, June 2, 2021, and July 7, 2021. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Chair Siebert.

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. Parade Update

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised the Commission the parade has now been included in the 2021 Celebrate Wildwood Event. He noted that, surprisingly, commitments were able to be secured from participants from past parades that will form a good foundation for a 2021 Celebrate Wildwood Parade. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich did advise that a high school marching band could not be secured for this date due to school activities. The proposed parade route was discussed, and the Commission was advised efforts would continue to secure parade participants.

Discussion among Commission Members included the following: the fact the Wildwood Greenway 5K Run/Walk originally scheduled for 9:00 a.m., on September 25, 2021, would now take place at 5:00 p.m.; the fact the golf carts would be available for Commission and Council Members on Friday morning, September 24, 2021, for decoration; questions about the new parade route; and the fact that a marching band would not be available for the parade.

b. Role of Commission Members in the Event

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich offered a list of role or activities that Commission Members can participate with/in at this year's Celebrate Wildwood Event if they wish to do so. It was noted that Commission Members could undertake as many of these activities as they wish, or none.

c. Update on Event Components and Committees

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised the Commission the components of the Celebrate Wildwood Event are coming together, and a *draft set-up* of the grounds would be available shortly.

Ken McGohan advised the scouts will have five (5) events set up for this year's event that currently include: Tomahawk Throw; the tepee; BB Gun activity; the Rain Gutter Regatta; and the *stem lab*. He noted these events will need to be set-up on Friday and wanted to begin after 5:00 p.m., with the *stem lab* arriving on Saturday afternoon, between the hours of 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. He also advised that some of the scouts had an interest in camping overnight at the event as they did last year. The Commission was informed the scouts would likely be wearing masks, if the COVID situation doesn't improve. The Commission expressed interest in the scouts handing out flags during the parade and being part of the Color Guard with the Metro West Fire Protection District.

Officer Steve DeGhelder advised the Commission that operational plans for the Celebrate Wildwood Event, the parade, and the Wildwood Greenway 5K Run/Walk, were in place and no problems/difficulties were expected. He updated the Commission on the police units that were scheduled to be present with static displays, which included the Tactical Unit and the Bomb & Arson Unit.

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich summarized the registrations currently received concerning fine Crafters, artists, book authors, *not for profit* organizations, and sponsors. He reviewed plans in place for advertising the event, specifically identifying the in-kind donation of the WestNews Magazine and work being conducted by Debbie Ward through social media.

d. COVID-19 Updates and Trends

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich updated the Commission on the current status concerning the COVID situation in the St. Louis Area. He noted the Department will continue to monitor available information, and without specific directives being issued by appropriate health agencies, planning will continue with the Celebrate Wildwood Event. All aspects of the planning process will move forward with necessary caution.

VI. Other Business for Consideration

Several items were presented for status check:

Whether a Kettle Corn vendor will be available for the Celebrate Wildwood Event.

Whether a Photo Booth had been scheduled for the Celebrate Wildwood Event.

Whether a decision had been made concerning preparation of the Memorial *Lantern Release*.

Whether the Department had reached out to local nurseries to determine interest in decorating the Celebrate Wildwood grounds.

Whether the Craft Restaurant had been contacted and ask to participate in the Celebrate Wildwood Event.

Whether the City has signs available for the Commission Members to advertise the event in their respective subdivisions.

Answers to these questions will be provided at the next meeting.

VII. Next Meeting Date

Consensus was reached for the next Commission meeting date, which will be on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Helfrey, seconded by Commissioner Ward, 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 Chair Siebert. The meeting concluded at 5:46 p.m.