



# Wildwood Celebration Commission Minutes

## Meeting Date:

- June 3, 2020
- 6:30 p.m.

## Commission Members Present:

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

### I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Siebert opened the meeting at 6:30 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  
Vicki Helfrey  
Sharon Hutson  
Jaclyn Tripp  
Patricia Ward  
Susan Siebert, Chair  
Joe Garritano, Council Liaison (arrived at 6:37 p.m.)  
Gary Crews, Staff Liaison

Absent Members: Karen Stevens and Cory Lawson

#### Other Officials & City Staff:

Sergeant Brad Wendling, St. Louis County Police – Wildwood Precinct  
Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Travis Newberry, Planner

### III. Approval of Minutes from the May 6, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Helfrey, seconded by Commissioner Hutson, to approve the May 6, 2020 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the minutes were declared approved.

### IV. Public Comments

None

Council Member Garritano arrived at 6:37 p.m.

### V. 2020 Celebrate Wildwood Event

a. Potential Changes to Event due to COVID-19

Director of Planning Vujnich noted Department staff had provided a memorandum on potential changes to the event based upon the concerns with COVID-19. He noted changes are coming, as the County Stay-at-Home Order is modified, but restrictions on group size will still be in place. There are concerns with returning to large events across the area, which leaves much unknown for an event the size of Celebrate Wildwood in just a few months. He noted the Wildwood Business Association (WBA) has discussed partnering with the City for a Friday night Oktoberfest Event with the City.

Discussion was held regarding the following: concerns especially with the kids area regarding sanitization and social distancing and, currently, there are limited things for the kids at the event; the possibility of doing an ice cream social and fireworks; the potential for having giveaways; concerns with public apprehension and low attendance at the event; the fact that the St. Charles Festival of the Little Hills canceled today; the belief that people who are not afraid will come out, but those who are afraid will stay home; the positive the event is held outside, which is helpful; the concerns with the large expenditure to host the event and a potential lack of attendance; the Farmers Market has had good attendance and set up spacing appropriate for the current concerns; the belief that, with the County opening up, people will start getting out; the challenge of managing the numbers in an appropriate way; the lack of artist interest in the last ten (10) weeks; the Scouts have canceled its event in October that is held once every ten (10) years due to concerns with reduced quality in the program and the inability to keep masks on kids and maintain social distancing; the probability of canceling concerts due to the tightness of people; the potential to wait until July to make a decision; the potential for a limited event; the possibility of having higher fireworks to be seen from a further distance; the possibility for two (2) approaches – a regular event around COVID-19, which is no art festival and a Friday night event in partnership with the Wildwood Business Association (WBA), then a Saturday event, or we take the event to the neighborhoods; the possibility of taking the options for a variety of types of events to the public for input.

Motion by Commissioner Helfrey, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to postpone a decision until the Commission's July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the motion was approved.

Discussion continued noting the following: the possibility of hosting a simpler event; the challenge of hosting the Art Festival, which makes it a 3-day event; the potential for the partnership with the WBA to have a Friday and Saturday event; the desire for a simpler event in 2020; put a survey on website to seek input on if people would attend; the concern with people's opinion changing on public events over the next three (3) months, so a concern the survey will not be effective measure; the change in opinion to not do a survey, given concerns with reliability and responsibility with the results; concerns with how do we provide a quality event; the potential for an event in the evening, with fireworks, and people bringing dinner; and the consensus to make a decision in July.

Commissioner Ward left the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

b. Additional Partner for the Event – Wildwood Business Association (WBA)

Director of Planning Vujnich noted the City's desire to include the WBA in hosting the event, if it is a day-long event with concert and food. Ms. Emily Willis, President of WBA, was in attendance and noted she has business buy-in and lots of volunteers. She noted a plan for Oktoberfest, with social distancing and beer tasting, but added that she would need a decision by July 8<sup>th</sup>.

c. Discussion on Event Layout

None

d. Update on Current Commitments and Ongoing Efforts

None

e. Other

None

**VI. 2020 Art Festival Event**

a. Update on Current Commitments and Ongoing Efforts

None

b. Other

None

**VII. Other Business for Consideration**

None

**VIII. Next Scheduled Meeting – July 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Commission agreed to keep the next meeting scheduled for July 8, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hutson, seconded by Commissioner Tripp, to adjourn. Having no further business to discuss, and hearing no objections, Chair Siebert called for a voice vote to adjourn, which it was approved. The meeting concluded at 7:38 p.m.