



Wildwood Celebration Commission Minutes

Meeting Date:

- February 6, 2019
- 6:30 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Libby Wilson
- Vicki Helfrey
- Pat Bishop
- Cory Lawson
- Patricia Ward
- Jaclyn Tripp
- Chair Siebert
- Joe Garritano, Council Liaison
- Gary Crews, Staff Liaison

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Siebert opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Stonecrest Senior Center

II. Roll Call

A roll call of members was conducted and the following individuals were in attendance:

Commission Members:

Libby Wilson
Vicki Helfrey
Pat Bishop
Cory Lawson
Pat Ward
Jaclyn Tripp
Chair Siebert
Joe Garritano, Council Liaison
Gary Crews, Staff Liaison

Absent Members: Eric Aufricht

Other Officials & City Staff:

Tim Woerther, City Council Member
Sergeant Brad Wendling, St. Louis County Police – Wildwood Precinct
Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Ken McGohan, Boy Scouts of America

III. Approval of Minutes from the October 3, 2018 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2018 meeting. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with affirmative result. Council Liaison Garritano abstained from the vote. The motion was declared approved by Chair Siebert.

IV. Public Comments

Kelley Woerther: expressed concern about a “parade policy” for the Celebrate Wildwood Parade. She feels clear parameters should be established, so issues with parade applicants are avoided. Coupled with this concern, Kelley Woerther noted several other issues that she feels should be addressed: her feeling that a parade policy is very important; guidelines for the parade, in the past, seemed to have been

“developed” along the way; a policy should be in place that clearly informs applicants that they can, or cannot, participate; whether there are separate committees to handle the parade, entertainment, vendors, and food and drink items, etc.; she requested to know the exact roles of the Celebrate Wildwood Commission Members have relative to the event; the question was ask who actually makes the decisions on the Commission; and the opinion it should be clear to all residents what the Commission does, the members of the Commission should be identified, and what their titles/responsibilities include.

Karen Seeley: wanted to know who to contact with concerns about the parade and other issues involving Celebrate Wildwood or the Art Festival; wanted to know if City Council representatives should be contacted or if Commission Members could be contacted directly; and, if Commission Members can be contacted directly, should it be via phone or email.

Karen Seeley was advised the Staff or the City Council Liaison would be the appropriate “direct” contacts or the Chair of the Celebrate Wildwood Commission may be a good secondary contact, since the position has the authority to place items on, or take them off, the agenda.

There was lengthy discussion on the *We Are Wildwood* organization.

V. 2019 Celebrate Wildwood Event (August 24, 2019 – Saturday)

Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich acknowledged the four (4) members of the Commission that have been reappointed: Libby Wilson, Vicki Helfrey, Cory Lawson, and Jaclyn Tripp, along with thanking each of them for their service.

a. Parade Policy for Participants: Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich advised the Commission the first step in a new parade policy has already began with the conversation/discussion taking place at this meeting. He provided a background on the parade participant selection process in the past, advising the parade is a community-based event and former Committee Members felt that politics should not be part of it. It was noted that, in preparation for this evening’s meeting, several local municipalities were contacted and asked about their parade policy and it was discovered that none of them had a “formal” type of any kind. Most did not differentiate between being political candidates or part of political organizations and it *appears* parade applicants are handled on a case-by-case basis through parameters among themselves. With the aforementioned being said, Director of Planning and Parks presented two (2) possible options for discussion regarding the parade, considerations of free speech, and how other communities approach the organization of their parades, and the issues presented to the Commission:

1. Eliminate the parade from the Celebrate Wildwood Event.
2. Allow all political organizations, politicians, and candidates to participate, but prohibit the distribution of flyers, handbills, and other promotional materials by any parade entrants. Consequently, parade entrants could only hand out beads, candy, or other confection items.

Director of Planning and Parks advised the Department feels the parade should be open to any participant that is willing to comply with the registration process and the safety rules to participate. He also noted the parade has become a staple of the Celebrate Wildwood Event. It is important to the Department, as it is to the Commission, to minimize conflicts with the parade’s organization.

Discussion among Commission Members included the following: a request from the Department as to what direction the Commission would like to pursue; the fact nothing has been posted relative to the parade at this time; a general feeling the parade does not impact the attendance of the Celebrate Wildwood Event one way or the other; the reason we allow politicians in office versus politicians seeking office; the fact City Council Liaison Garritano is not supportive of eliminating the parade from the Celebrate Wildwood Event; and the suggestion of organizing a parade focused on the children in Wildwood.

b. Current Commitments: Solid commitments to the 2019 Celebrate Wildwood Event have not been made, with the exception of the major concert entertainment in the evening (Fat Pocket Band).

c. Major Venues: The Commission was pleased with last year's venue and event offerings. The most important decision for the 2019 event will be a location.

d. Schedule: The Commission was in agreement the 2019 Celebrate Wildwood Event should remain one day.

e. Proposal for Reenactment (Ken McGohan): Ken McGohan informed the Commission of an opportunity to have a reenactment crew at the 2019 Celebrate Wildwood Event. The program would revolve around the Civil War activity during/around 1861. He noted there would be 10 to 12 participants in the reenactment, they may be interested in participating in the parade, and they could likely be scheduled for a donation. It was suggested this reenactment could be coordinated with the Wildwood Historical Society.

f. Location: With new development taking place on the site utilized for the Celebrate Wildwood Event the last few years, the City is left without a venue for the 2019 event. Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich provided three (3) options: Lafayette High School; Babler State Park; and the St. Louis Community College – Wildwood Campus. He also advised the City has recently purchased six (6) acres that are located just west of Wildwood City Hall, and it is being investigated/researched for the possibility of being used for the Celebrate Wildwood Event, but it's too early to determine if that can be accomplished. He noted all the areas have advantages and disadvantages and the Department will continue the search for an appropriate venue. The suggestion was made to investigate the feasibility of the Life Pointe Church property at State Route 109 and State Route BA.

VI. 2019 Art Festival Event (October 19 and 20, 2019 – Saturday and Sunday)

There was no discussion on the 2019 Art Festival at this time.

VII. Other Business

None

VII. Next Scheduled Meeting – March 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Helfrey, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to adjourn. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:23 p.m.