



WILDWOOD

March 28, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
The Honorable City Council of Wildwood
Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney

Re: **Discussion Regarding the Commission's Participation in the Missouri 2021 Bicentennial Celebration (Wards – All)**

Commission Alternate Stevens alerted Department staff to the planning that is underway for the State of Missouri's Bicentennial Celebration, scheduled for 2021, when Missouri will celebrate its two hundredth anniversary. Department staff agreed this topic should be presented to the Commission Members to determine if there was interest in the Commission participating in any of these activities. The website outlining the proposed activities can be found at www.missouri2021.org. Some of the activities are at a community level, while others are for schools or individuals. The list of activities outlined, with a brief description from the website of those that are community appropriate, are as follows:

Community Projects

- Missouri Encyclopedia

The online Missouri Encyclopedia, a project of the State Historical Society of Missouri, will provide users easy access to authoritative information on the history and culture of Missouri. As an online resource, the Missouri Encyclopedia will be available to users throughout Missouri and far beyond the State's borders. It will provide a comprehensive treatment of the State, while taking into account unique and distinctive aspects of its local communities, along with life across Missouri's tremendous regional diversity in geography, environment, cultural heritage, and social customs.

To be comprehensive, the editorial team needs your help. Who are the people and what are the places and events that shaped your community, your county, and your region? Learn more about the Missouri Encyclopedia and help contribute topic suggestions.

Participation in the Missouri Encyclopedia would require the drafting of a brief history of a Wildwood item relative to a topic on a list of twenty (20) items provided by the State.

- Missouri Community Legacies

Missouri Community Legacies is a documentation initiative of the State Historical Society of Missouri and part of its commemoration of the Missouri Bicentennial. The goal of the program is to create a “snap shot” of Missouri traditions, creative expressions, meaningful places, and organizations and institutions during its bicentennial of Statehood and develop a resource – built by the people of Missouri – of long-term use to students and teachers, researchers, and others interested in the rich history, life, and culture of the State.

The program operates on the assumption that citizens of Missouri know best what represents their particular communities, counties, and regions. Its success rests on the willingness of citizens to document and share the unique characteristics of their communities with others.

Missouri Community legacies are contemporary, ongoing, and existent local traditions and creative expressions; meaningful places; and organizations and institutions. Local traditions might include festivals, such as Juneteenth in Kansas City or Pershing Days in Laclede. Creative expressions might include quilt art, stories and legends, or food traditions. A meaningful place is a physical site of significance to a community. This site might be a park, a building, a cemetery, or maybe even a main street. Organizations and institutions may include those of a religious nature, such as churches, mosques, or synagogues; voluntary associations, such as Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, bowling leagues, or other social and volunteer organizations; or professional associations.

Participation in the Missouri Community Legacies would require the determination of the item the Commission would like to commemorate and then drafting of the necessary documentation.

- Endorsed Projects

The Endorsement Program creates a media partnership with local organizations wanting to develop and host their own bicentennial activities or brand existing community offerings for the bicentennial year. Endorsed programs and events receive an acknowledgement from the State Historical Society of Missouri and permission to use Missouri 2021 logos according to established guidelines.

If the Commission Members choose to host or participate in a Missouri 2021 activity, application can be made to the State for it to be an Endorsed Project.

Non-Community Projects

- Bicentennial Alliance
- Bicentennial License Plate
- Bicentennial Quilt
- My Missouri 2021
- Show-Me Prize (Schools)

At the upcoming meeting, Department staff is hoping to have a discussion regarding the proposed bicentennial activities and gauge the level of interest from the Commission on overall participation and, if warranted, a specific program the members would like to pursue. If there is interest in pursuing participation, members will need to discuss and determine the priority level the project will take within the Commission’s 2019 Work Program.

If you should have any questions or comments in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your review of this information and input on the same.