



# WILDWOOD

February 27, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Discussion Regarding Memorial Tributes** ([Wards - All](#))

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
The Honorable City Council of Wildwood  
Sam Anselm, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks

Over the course of time, meaning the last twenty-five (25) years, many individuals have participated on this Historic Preservation Commission for multiple terms and numerous years. These volunteers have helped to preserve the rich history of the area that is now known as Wildwood. Along with these City officials, others in the community have contributed in many ways as well, such as forming, developing, and working to maintain the Wildwood Historic Society, and individuals that work to preserve their individual pieces of history, such as log cabins and other buildings and structures, which are located on their properties. Collectively, all of these individuals have formed a safety net for preserving the character, history, and assets of the eleven (11) historic communities that existed here, and predated the City of Wildwood, along with all of the wonderful buildings, structures, and areas that make up the network of assets within it.

Often the efforts of so many volunteers over time are not recognized as they should be or, worse, until they have moved from the community, stepped back from participation, or passed. In these instances, the work remains, but the party or parties integral to such are not remembered to the degree deserving of their respective efforts. These types of circumstances happen often, but are not acknowledged or discussed until, in some instances, it is too late. This type of situation occurred with Lisa Kelpé, and her untimely death in a vehicle accident. Ms. Kelpé was President of the Wildwood Historical Society for many years and was integral in its growth and helping to reestablish a relationship between it and the City of Wildwood. This relationship had been strained at times, when other leadership was involved.

After Ms. Kelpé's death, the Historic Preservation Commission wanted to address her passing and provide some type of memorial to her in this regard. This item became part of the Historic Preservation Commission's Work Program for 2019, as well as 2020. Several discussions were held, but other priorities took time away from completing a decision and addressing it in some manner. This situation has now allowed more time

for the Historic Preservation Commission to discuss not only acknowledging the passing of Ms. Kelpo, but also others who have been integral in this same regard. With this decision, the Commission Members asked that a policy be developed for such memorials for these pioneers of historic preservation. The Department of Planning was given this responsibility to develop a draft policy for review by the Commission Members.

In considering this situation, the Department of Planning would note these pioneers of preservation can be divided into two (2) groups, those individuals that have or are working with the City and those persons working through private organizations or other entities, including just as private individuals maintaining a historic asset on their properties. Therefore, a City honor or memorial may be best addressed by retaining these two (2) groupings, thereby allowing the City to recognize individuals that have worked with it, given its direct knowledge of the levels of participation and contributions, while a similar approach could be developed for those persons that have not been directly affiliated with the City, but still have a major role in historic preservation activities in the City of Wildwood and with specific private organizations or entities. However, the Department does believe that, even if an individual has not been part of the City board, commission, committee, or elected by Wildwood residents, but has been a pioneer of preservation, the City can still recognize such in an appropriate manner.

If the Historic Preservation Commission is agreeable with this manner of addressing contributions to historic preservation by different members of the community, its structure could be established as follows:

Recognition of Contribution and Manner	Public Participant	Manner of Recognition by City	Private Participant	Manner of Recognition by City
<b>Champions of Conservancy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Served for eight (8) or more years on the Historic Preservation Commission</li> <li>b. Provided leadership on the Commission as its Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary</li> <li>c. Led a major initiative of the Historic Preservation Commission during their terms</li> <li>d. Volunteered for off-hour participation at Celebrate Wildwood or other events of the Historic Preservation Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Memorial Brick at Old Pond School (large size)</li> <li>b. Memorial Tree planted within one (1) of the eleven (11) historic communities, with small marker</li> <li>c. Proclamation at City Council</li> <li>d. Article in the Wildwood Gazette</li> <li>e. Acknowledgement on City's website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Leadership position with the Wildwood Historical Society or another regional historic preservation group or organization</li> <li>b. Owner of a historic asset that is part of the City of Wildwood's Historic Registry</li> <li>c. Regular attendee and participant at the City's Historic Preservation Commission meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Memorial Brick at Old Pond School (small size)</li> <li>b. Proclamation at City Council</li> <li>c. Acknowledgement on City's website</li> </ul>

Recognition of Contribution and Manner	Public Participant	Manner of Recognition by City	Private Participant	Manner of Recognition by City
<b>Sustaining Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Served for four (4) or more years on the Historic Preservation Commission</li> <li>b. Participated in a major initiative of the Historic Preservation Commission during their terms</li> <li>c. Volunteered for off-hour participation at Celebrate Wildwood or other events of the Historic Preservation Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Memorial Brick at Old Pond School (small size)</li> <li>b. Proclamation at City Council</li> <li>c. Acknowledgement on City's website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Member of the Wildwood Historical Society or another regional historic preservation group or organization</li> <li>b. Owner of a historic asset that has been maintained and retained on the property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Memorial Brick at Old Pond School (small size)</li> <li>b. Acknowledgement on City's website</li> </ul>
<b>Guardians of History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Served for four (4) or less years on the Historic Preservation Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Memorial Brick at Old Pond School (small size)</li> <li>b. Acknowledgement on City's website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Owner of historic asset on the federal National Registry of Historic Places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Memorial Brick at Old Pond School (small size)</li> </ul>

Again, these items contained in the table are draft in nature and intended to solicit discussion at tonight's meeting, where the Department fully expects changes to occur. The intent is to recognize individuals in this community that have assisted in preserving its history, while acknowledging different levels of involvement, but always utilizing the Old Pond School for all memorials and the brick program.

If any of the Historic Preservation Commission Members have any questions or comments regarding this draft of a memorial program and the criteria used for such designations, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on this matter at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your consideration and direction in this regard.