



Wildwood Celebration Commission Minutes

Meeting Date:

- May 6, 2020
- 6:30 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

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

Absent Members: None

Other Officials & City Staff:

Dr. Kenneth Remy – City Council Ward Three
Sergeant Brad Wendling and Police Officer Steve DeGhelder, 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 March 4, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, to approve the March 4, 2020 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the minutes were declared approved.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. 2020 Celebrate Wildwood Event

a. Potential Changes to Event due to COVID-19

Chair Siebert noted her concerns about how many people may attend an event during this year, especially with the prediction of a second wave of infections likely impacting the attendance. She noted concerns with planning the event, with so much uncertainty.

Director of Planning Vujnich noted the Department also has concerns and recognizes the substantial level of uncertainty. He noted the City is close to a final date on making a decision, if the event should be canceled.

Discussion was held regarding the following: canceling the event completely; hosting only a one-day event; hosting an online celebration; the change in dynamics and event layout due to social distancing; the uncertainty of what will happen in the next five (5) months; the need to still honor the City's 25th Anniversary; the need for some type of event for the morale of the community and normalcy; concerns with the uncertainty of the pandemic effects on this fiscal year and City's budget; the need for a final date, when decisions need to be made; the desire for a Plan B, in case the event needs to be canceled; the potential to reallocate money from this year's event to next year and do two (2) events next year or a 25+1 celebration next year; this idea for this year's event to be an ice cream fair, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, with balloons and advertise the next year's event; the need to revise the layout to allow for social distancing; the potential again for limiting the event to one (1) day, but concerns with the artists not being interested in such a single day event; concerns with planning the large-scale event and spending the tax payers dollars; Dr. Remy noted he would not change anything yet. He believes in a month or so a decision could be made and, if kids go back to college, the event could definitely be held; and the scouting activities are all on hold currently – Girl Scouts have canceled all summer camps and Boy Scouts are considering similar decisions.

Consensus was reached for the Department staff to contact providers and see if commitments can be obtained without deposits, or with smaller deposits, and, if the event is ultimately canceled, what impacts there would be on the budget. Staff will also contact the City's insurance provider to see if there is some type of insurance that fits this situation. Commissioners will also come up with alternative ideas and bring them back for the June meeting.

b. Discussion on Event Location and Layout

Director of Planning Vujnich noted he spoke with the property owner of the site used in previous years, to the east of the movie theater, and he graciously authorized the use of the site again this year, if the City is interested.

A motion was made by Chair Siebert, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to use the same site as last year for the 2020 event location. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the motion was declared approved.

c. Update on Current Commitments and Ongoing Efforts

None

d. 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 – June 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The Commission agreed to keep the next meeting scheduled for June 3, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, and hearing no objections, Chair Siebert called for a voice vote to adjourn, and it was approved. The meeting concluded at 7:16 p.m.