

CITY OF WILDWOOD  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

WILDWOOD CITY HALL

16860 MAIN STREET

WILDWOOD, MISSOURI 63040

and on Zoom

May 28, 2020

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I. Welcome and Roll Call

**Meeting:** Thursday, 5/28/20, Wildwood City Hall and Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

**Attending:** Commissioners Wojciechowski, Stevens, Scott, Hammond, and Hrubes and Council Liaisons Edens and Farmer

**Absent:** Commissioners Rowton and Bachert and Alternates Adams and Quarternik

**Staff:** Director of Planning and Parks Joe Vujnich, Assistant Director of Planning Kathy Arnett, and Planner Travis Newberry

II. Opening Remarks by Chair Wojciechowski

Chair Wojciechowski welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

III. Approval of the Historic Preservation Commission February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve the meeting minutes from its meeting on February 27, 2020. A voice vote was taken on the motion, with a unanimous affirmative result, and Chair Wojciechowski declared the motion approved by a vote of 5-0.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. New Business

A. Ready for Action – One (1) Item

1. Presentation by Joe Harl, Archaeological Research Center, on what is learned from Prehistoric Site and New Insights Coming from Historical Archaeology (Wards – All)

Director of Planning Vujnich introduced Joe Harl, from the Archaeological Research Center, noting he is the region's foremost expert in archaeology and pre-history. Mr. Harl began his presentation by providing an overview of the tools, foods, and settlements in the local area, as far back as 6000 B.C. He explained the trading of goods, of which such stops, were found in the region dating back 1,500 years ago, at the same time as the Dark Ages. He noted approximately one thousand (1,000)

years ago, small farmsteads started to become cities. He noted the City of Cahokia was one such example and its population was 30,000 people. The Dampier Site, found in the Chesterfield Valley Area, was also one (1) such community. Mr. Harl then explained how archaeological finds are used to date discoveries and piece together history. He then cited several examples, including the discovery of decorative dishes, plumbing, and glass. He noted between 1750 and 1820, pioneers used English creamware dishes, not pewter or wood. Then, the Germans introduced stoneware to the area around the 1830's. Plumbing also provides historic clues in the City of St. Louis, before the 1870's, privies were next to cisterns, but after 1870, the City of St. Louis started passing ordinances separating the two (2) structures because of public health. In the 1920's, indoor plumbing started. The final example was glass bottles. Mr. Harl noted soda has been popular from the 1850's. The brewing industry began using brown bottles for beer made in America in the 1880's to protect it from sunlight. Archaeology is used in the study of objects to identify what they reflect about human behavior.

Discussion was then held between Mr. Harl and the Commissioners and included the following items: the question of any discovered settlements in the Wildwood Area, to which was noted a large settlement was discovered at the base of the bluffs, near Babler State Park, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, as a mound district, plus several large plantations near Old Slave Road, in addition to several prehistoric sites, but not much archaeological investigation has been completed; the strength of Burlington Chert, which is sharper than metal; and the fact Mr. Harl recently completed a dig at Jefferson Barracks, but has nothing else scheduled soon in the area.

**B. Not Ready for Action – One (1) Item**

1. Primer on Property Maintenance Codes and the Impact on Historic Structures (Wards – All)

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Ready for Action – Two (2) Items**

1. **Update on Publication of Final Wildwood Written History Book (Wards - All)**

Director of Planning Vujnich reviewed the status of the history book. Noting Jill Von Gruben has completed her work in modifying the last chapter to incorporate the Commission's comments from its review. The revised version, which encompassed the timeframe of 1991 through 2020, is now complete. The revised draft will be provided to the Commission for review. The information on the City's incorporation is being drafted by the Department, with assistance from a number of incorporators. The Department is not finished with the incorporation chapter at this time, but is making progress and will provide the draft as soon as it is ready. As previously decided by the Members, the book publication will be completed by a local company. The work of this publisher will include content editing, but not a major reduction in the book size. The graphic designer is under contract to resize the book to a larger format and add this year's chapters.

Director Vujnich noted there is uncertainty around the Celebrate Wildwood Event for this year and, with delays due to the pandemic, it may be difficult to complete the book in that timeframe.

He requested direction from the Commissioners on their opinion relative to the book's completion date.

Discussion was held among the Commissioners and included the following items: the support of keeping things moving, but in doing the project right, and not rushing it to completion; the importance of the project and the time that has already been expended, dictates it should not be rushed at the end; would be okay if the book was completed in 2021, if that's how long it takes to complete the project correctly; the belief that any public event this year will not be what it usually is and, therefore, shouldn't worry about rushing for a specific timeline; the fact that completion in 2021 would coincide with the State Bicentennial; support for 2021, paralleling the State's celebration; the ability to market the product, as the perfect read during a quarantine; and the request to ensure an e-book version is included as well.

Consensus was reached among the Commissioners to take whatever time it is necessary to complete the book in a high quality manner.

## 2. Update on 2020 Work Program (Wards – All)

Assistant Director of Planning Arnett provided an overview of the status of the 2020 Work Program items, noting that eight (8) of the twelve (12) items were underway, while work had also begun on all four (4) of the ongoing items. The following items were noted to be underway: **Item #4.** Wildwood History Book; **Item #5.** 2020 Points of Interest Map; **Item #8.** Belleview Farms Project; **Item #9.** Champions of History Program; **Item #10.** Essen Log Cabin Reconstruction; **Item #11.** Participation in the State's Bi-Centennial Celebration; **Item #13.** Archiving of Incorporation documents; and **Item #14.** Installation of Kohn Park identification signage.

Work on ongoing items was noted as including an article published in the Spring Gazette on historic preservation; a number of social media posts regarding the Commission's work; the scheduling of three (3) of the proposed four (4) training sessions and completion that evening of the first of them; and updates on City projects impacting local historic locations, such as the Manchester Road Streetscape Project on Historic Route 66.

Six (6) items were noted from the 2020 Work Program that were not yet started. These items included: **Item #1.** Minor repairs at Old Pond School; **Item #2.** Evaluation of next group of properties for the City's historical inventory; **Item #3.** Installation of the final historic community marker in Orrville; **Item #6.** Promotion of Route 66; **Item #7.** Planning and design of Historic Route 66 pocket park; and **Item #12.** Creation of a Master Plan for acceptance of donations of historical significance to the City of Wildwood.

### B. Not Ready for Action – Four (4) Items

1. Discussion Regarding the Future Location for the Essen Log Cabin (Wards - All)
2. Work Program for Historic Route 66 Promotion (Wards – All)
3. Discussion Regarding Memorial Tribute (Wards – All)
4. Update on Kohn Park Sign (Ward One)

**VII. Review of Proposed Zoning/Plats/Site Development Plan/Demolition Requests – No Items**

**VIII. Other Matters for Consideration**

Council Member Edens noted she enjoyed Mr. Harl's presentation.

Commissioner Stevens noted she was happy to be back with the group, after the break due to COVID-19.

**IX. Upcoming Meeting Dates – June 25, 2020 (Thursday), at 6:30 p.m.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> and will likely be held via Zoom platform again. No word on when face-to-face meetings will be scheduled in the future.

**X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment by Chair Wojciechowski**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, to adjourn the meeting. With a unanimous voice vote, Chair Wojciechowski declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.