



WILDWOOD

January 27, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Wildwood History Book Update (Wards – All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
The Honorable City Council of Wildwood
Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

BACKGROUND

The final edition of the Wildwood History Book is the culmination of five (5) years of work and now includes the final chapters of it. These chapters cover the time period from 1991 to 2021 and, more importantly, provide the history of the incorporation movement, from its start, which was in response to a number of land use, roadway, and governance issues by St. Louis County that were negatively impacting the area, to its successful conclusion on September 1, 1995.

At its October 28, 2021 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission approved the following Scope of Work for Jill VonGruben, the primary author, related to finalizing the book, prior to its redesign and publishing:

Task	Progress Update
Verify all HPC Commissioners are identified on page at end of book: Past & Present	Will be completed by the Department by February 4, 2022.
Update timeline at end of book to present	Timeline is available for your review at tonight's meeting.
Update City Map	The 2021 Points of Interest Map will replace the current map.
Add information on Wounded Warrior Homes	This information is now up-to-date.

Ms. VonGruben to further edit Chapter 6 (Incorporation Chapter)	Edited version is available for your review with Department comments.
Final edits to be made to all files.	Most of these edits have been made and will be complete by February 4, 2022.
Replace "African-American" with "Black" to conform with current journalistic formatting.	This work will be completed by Stacey Mincoff, book designer.
Extend Chapter 5 to include 2021 through the end of the year	This work has been completed and is available for your review this evening with Department comments.

As noted above, the majority of this work has now been completed and is available for review at tonight's meeting. Commissioners are asked to submit all related edits, revisions, and feedback to the Department by **Friday, February 4th, 2022.**

Department Recommendations

The Department continues to be exceptionally pleased at the level of work produced by Ms. VonGruben. However, after reviewing the recent submittals, the Department recommends the following (in addition to minor edits/revisions noted directly in the content provided):

Incorporation Chapter

- The Department recommends reordering the first three (3) paragraphs to the following:
 - Paragraph three (3)
 - Paragraph one (1)
 - Paragraph two (2)

Chapter 5

- COVID-19 Business Section (p. 45-46)
 - Add that, with the Emergency Order, the City was able to loosen land use regulations to permit outdoor seating, shelters in the winter months, and signage outside the City's regulations.
 - The City's Economic Development Manager tracked federal and State legislation, providing weekly updates to the local business community on available funding opportunities.
- It is suggested that the COVID-19 content (p. 46-52) be reorganized and condensed, with a focus on community resiliency towards the end of the chapter, so that it ends on a more powerful and optimistic note.
 - It was noted the timeline (p. 47-48), if retained, should have a mix of local, State, national, and global content all the way through it.
- It is suggested that the controversies around COVID-19 be identified without bias. Presently, there is no mention of them.
 - Mask mandates vs. recommendations

- Vaccine controversy
- It is suggested the Capitol attack (p. 21) paragraph be revised to replace “mob” with “insurrectionists,” and to again, identify the existing theories/motivations behind it as objectively as possible. The Department recommends this added detail occur in just a sentence or two.

Epilogue

After reading Chapter 5, the Department suggests an “epilogue,” at the end of the book, no more than just a couple of pages. The purpose of the epilogue would be to bring the history of the area that is now called “Wildwood” full circle, look “beyond” to future events and projects (i.e. Village Green and Town Center), and leave the reader with some uplifting commentary.

The Department asks Commissioners to take action on each of these recommendations at tonight’s meeting, so Ms. VonGruben may be directed as to next steps.

Next Steps and Timeline

If the Historic Preservation Commission determines further work on this final content is appropriate, Ms. VonGruben will need additional time to complete identified tasks. Next steps are listed below:

1. Ms. VonGruben completes revisions, and if directed, writes an epilogue.
2. Once content has been deemed “final,” it will then be transmitted to Stacey Mincoff, the book’s designer, for formatting.
3. The Department recommends hiring an editor prior to the book’s publishing.
4. Before the book is published, a book launch event will need to be planned for its release.
5. Publishing “on-demand” takes five (5) minutes, with the book available in Kindle stores within twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48) hours.
6. The Department will order books and have them available for the book launch event.
7. Book launch event.

The Department is optimistically looking to July 4, 2022 as a potential launch date, with the 2022 Celebrate Wildwood Event likely being the more realistic target.

If any of the Commission Members should have comments or questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your consideration of this information and discussion of the same.