



WILDWOOD

March 15, 2022

The Honorable City Council
City of Wildwood, Missouri
16860 Main Street
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: Presentation of Letter regarding Poërtner Park's Future Use (Ward Six)

Council Members:

BACKGROUND >>> At the Planning and Parks Committee meeting on February 15, 2022, a group of equestrian representatives presented a proposal to its members regarding the use of Poërtner Park for a facility accommodating such interests. The group, represented by Ms. Libby Wilson, identified the need for such a facility in the Wildwood community and how it believed this location might work well for this type of use. At that time, the Committee had just been introduced to this topic and made no recommendation, but some of the Members did express concerns about the size of park site in regard to this specific use. Additionally, the Committee Members also questioned whether the current deed restrictions that are in place on the property from its previous owner who donated it to the City would allow such and asked for input and direction from the City Attorney.

At its meeting on March 15, 2022, Committee Members were provided the list of restrictions associated with the property. The restrictions, again, were conditions Ms. Yost set in regard to the donation to ensure her wishes relative to the property were met. These restrictions are as follows:

- Free of charge;
- Maintained as an undeveloped wildlife refuge and preserved for the purposes of picnicking, bird watching, hiking, and fishing;
- Hunting, shooting, or killing is not permitted on such property;
- Remains in its natural state; and
- Named Poërtner Park.

COMMITTEE DIRECTION >>> The Committee was advised the City Administrator and the Department of Planning discussed the matter with the City Attorney, who researched both the deed restriction and trust documents for this park site. Along with this review, the City Attorney also evaluated case precedent in similar situations. The outcome of this review was a significant concern that an equestrian

facility would not meet the requirements of the bequeath and risk the City not adhering to the deed restrictions, as exist on the property.

Committee Members acknowledged the need for such a facility, but not at this location. Discussion was held regarding the consideration of the interested residents contacting St. Louis County to discuss the possibility of an equestrian facility at property that jurisdiction recently acquired on Forby Road in Wildwood. The Committee Members reached a consensus that, based on the discussion items and the City Attorney's analysis, this location would not be suitable under its current parameters.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If City Council Members should have any questions or comment before tonight's meeting, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation on this matter is not planned at tonight's meeting, given it is listed under 'For Information' on the Work Session Agenda. However, if any City Council members have questions or comments, this matter can be addressed at that time. Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF WILDWOOD

Don Bartoni, Chair*

Planning and Parks Committee

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Kristin Naeger, Recreation Specialist

* The Department of Planning and Parks developed this report, in conjunction with the Planning and Parks Committee. Content reflects the Committee's consideration of this subject and not necessarily an individual's position or opinion.