



WILDWOOD

March 24, 2022

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

Re: Route 66 Roadside Park Work Program (**Wards – All**)

Council Members:

BACKGROUND >>> Historic Route 66 is an icon of international fame and recognition. The City of Wildwood, like many other communities in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, has a part of this wonderful icon within its boundaries. Like a lesser number of communities, the City of Wildwood has the portion of this historic roadway that was its original location, when first commissioned by the United States Congress in 1936. Such makes this segment of roadway something special and an area the City has always wanted to celebrate from many perspectives, such as preservation, tourism, historic preservation, and economic development.

To further these historic preservation goals of celebrating the “Mother Road,” and as part of the Manchester Road Phase III Streetscape Project, the City purchased a one-half (½) acre parcel of ground from a private individual that has frontage on Historic Route 66. Also, now with the completion of the streetscape at this location, a bicycle lane and sidewalk are located along its frontage as well. These factors and improvements led to the Historic Preservation Commission deciding to develop a roadside park at this location, which was supported by the City Council and then endorsed by it. This park would be limited in size and scope, but offer a respite on the roadway, and be a location to learn about it as well.

With this decision, the Historic Preservation Commission developed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to be advertised to planning and design firms for such to offer the best use from this small site on this very important roadway. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was completed by the Department of Planning and offered to the Commission Members for comments and suggestions. Ultimately, the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued, and ten (10) firms responded to it. Of those ten (10) firms, the Commission Members selected three (3) of them for interviews, which were conducted and concluded at its March 2021 meeting. Out of the interview process, the Commission recommended SWT Design. This recommendation was presented to the City Council and it endorsed the selection and allowed legislation to be prepared for this service.

With the contract approved on March 14, 2022 by the City Council, SWT Design has now been undertaking the necessary steps to implement the work program that has been commissioned (see attached proposal) for this project. This work program was provided the Historic Preservation Commission, which accepted it. This work program identified several important dates for next steps, which are being offered to City Council for its information and inclusion in its schedule, for any members interested in participating in any or all of them. Accordingly, listed below are the major milestones planned in this process.

Thursday, April 7th – Project Kickoff and Site Visit. SWT Design met with a group of Historic Preservation Commission Members and City Team Members to begin the framing process for this site and the community in its immediate vicinity.

Thursday, April 28th, 2:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Main Street Community Visit/Stakeholder Engagement Meeting #1. SWT Design will attend and plan an engagement opportunity for the proposed park project.

Thursday, May 5th – Visioning Workshop. SWT Design will conduct a three (3) hour workshop with the Historic Preservation Commission and other invitees.

TBD – Second Stakeholder Engagement Meeting. Will be held in late May/early June.

Wednesday, July 20th – Pin-Up Review Meeting #1. Will be held during the evening, at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 22nd – Pin-Up Review Meeting #2. Will be held during regular monthly meeting of the HPC.

IN CLOSING >>> If any of the City Council Members should have comments or questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. This item is on tonight's agenda as an 'For Information' item, but can be discussed, if any City Council Members should requested such of the Mayor. Thank you for your consideration of this information and any input you may like to offer on the same.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF WILDWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Jan Stevens, Chair

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Historic Preservation Commission Members
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 of Planning and Parks
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner
Robyn Keefe, Planner