



WILDWOOD

May 17, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Parks Committee Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Consideration of Change to Park and Recreation Regulations for Special Events Serving Alcohol (Wards – All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Captain Jim Mundel, St. Louis County Police Department – Wildwood Precinct
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

BACKGROUND >>> Within the last month, the City has been contacted by a local business, Zick's Great Outdoors, about restarting a fund raising event it has sponsored for many years call the "Bandana Bash." This event has generally been held at Mr. Zick's business at Clayton and Strecker Roads and raised money for cancer research and hosted a bone marrow testing component as well. These events, over the years, were very popular. However, as time progressed, the event was not held for a range of reasons.

Again, the recent contact was about holding the event and starting it in 2022. In this case, the organizers would like to use Community Park for the event and hold it in August. The City has a process for larger events utilizing its facilities, which includes completing the attached application that is presented both to this Committee and then City Council for action. Thereafter, if the application is recommended and approved, the Department then coordinates the event with its organizers. Larger events may also have a few extra steps to ensure the safety and function of it is at a safe and appropriate level.

The City does host a number of larger events throughout the year, inclusive of its own recreation schedule, such as concerts, walks, runs, and others, while many of the major recreation and bicycling organizations seek Wildwood due to its rural roadways, great trail network, and abundant green space for the same. These organizations include Trailnet, Open Space Council of Greater St. Louis, and Gateway Off-Road Cyclists (GORC). The allowances for these organizations and others to use facilities in the City is always viewed as a positive, in that it brings people to the City, which helps the business community and creates an energy and enthusiasm about this area.

CURRENT REQUEST >>> With this request, one (1) item has caused a potential issue for the organizer, and others as well, is the City's prohibition on alcohol in its park areas and trail corridors, even when in conjunction with a major event. Although there is a prohibition in this regard, many events do have alcohol in association with them, based upon the waste left in receptacles that is visible on cleanup. This assessment is not to identify a problem, but rather a general practice of users and picnickers in the City's park system.

With the "Bandana Bash," one (1) of the major components is fund raising and the sale of alcohol is critical to it. However, with the current prohibition, such cannot be considered at this time. The prohibition is as follows:

Section 235.040

General Requirements — Park Properties And Trail Corridors.

[R.O. 1997 § 235.040; Ord. No. 1230 § 1, 10-24-2005]

D. Consumption Of Alcoholic Beverages. No person shall possess or consume alcoholic beverages in any park facility or trail corridor.

With the assistance of the St. Louis County Police Department – Wildwood Precinct, a review of records indicates that, in the last year, only two (2) summonses have been issued by the police for alcohol procession and/or consumption in the City's park or trail areas, specifically relating to minors in possession. That limited number of issuances appears to be the pattern over a year-over-year review of these statistics.

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS >>> The Department does believe the existing regulation should be amended to allow organizations and other similar entities to have the option to serve alcohol as part of an event at certain park or trail locations, under a permit and certain City-issued conditions. This process would ensure that an event permit is submitted, any required liquor licenses are obtained, and an assignment of responsibility to the organization or entity is established to ensure all conditions of the permit are met. The amendment of the current regulation would more reflect current activities in the City's park and trail areas, but create a method to eliminate the uncertainties that exist with such at this time.

Therefore, the Department is recommending the wording of this regulation be amended to read as follows, which would eventually be reviewed by the City Attorney, before any passage of legislation to enact such:

D. Consumption Of Alcoholic Beverages. No person shall possess or consume alcoholic beverages in any park facility or trail corridor, **unless authorized by a duly-issued permit from the City of Wildwood. If the sale of alcohol is planned, the issuance of the authorization is contingent on all State, St. Louis County, and City of Wildwood permits being obtained, where applicable, and full compliance to any and all other conditions and restrictions that are set forth therein.**

The permitting process allows for the needed oversight of this allowance, particularly in instances as identified, where the sale of alcohol is planned, as part of a fund-raising endeavor. Any liquor license that is issued in this regard will have a fee in association with it, while the standard rental fee for the use of pavilions and parks will also apply.

Again, the Department of Planning and Parks does support a change in the current regulation and the creation of a permitting process for such, which is intended to allow for certain organization, entities, and others to enjoy City parks and trail corridors or raise funds for worthwhile causes or needs, while being cognizant of needed safeguards in association with the consumption of alcohol.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any of the Committee Members have questions or comments regarding this process, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation on this matter is planned at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review of this information and action upon it, as requested.