



WILDWOOD

July 29, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: Route 66 Roadside Park Project Updates (**Wards – All**)

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
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

BACKGROUND >>>

For several months, the Historic Preservation Commission, in conjunction with the selected landscape architectural firm, SWT Design, and area residents, business owners, students, and organizations, has been working towards developing concepts for a roadside park that will highlight its proximity along Historic Route 66 and serve as a defining asset for the corridor. The following milestones have now been reached:

Site Visit & Kick-Off Meeting, April 7, 2022 – The Route 66 Roadside Park Project Team met at Old Pond School to share their Route 66 anecdotes and histories, brainstorm important elements for the park and stories to interpret, and better conceptualize the amount of workable space through a base map activity that included scaled cut-outs of potential park furniture and other elements. This meeting ended with a visit the park site.

Route 66 Revitalization Event & Park Engagement, April 28, 2022 – SWT Design attended an event targeted to the broader community, including corridor stakeholders, area residents, business owners, church officials, school administrators, institutional leaders, and area organizations with related missions. At this event, an informational handout and survey link was distributed, with representatives available to answer questions and listen to public feedback.

Route 66 Roadside Park Regroup Meeting, May 5, 2022 – At this meeting, the Route 66 Roadside Park Project Team met to discuss increasing project engagement to include adjacent residents and business owners, the Student Route 66 Taskforce members, and the broader school community via a student design competition. At the end of the discussion, some members stayed to watch a documentary film about Missouri Route 66 produced by the Missouri History Museum.

Route 66 Student Taskforce Orientations, June 25 & July 25, 2022 – A total of eight (8) students visited the Route 66 Roadside Park project site over these two (22) different dates as a part of their tour of the historic corridor.

Business Owner Meeting, July 12, 2022 – Two (2) business owners representing Adler’s Dry Goods and Cherry Hills Vet Clinic attended a presentation and base map activity for the park project at City Hall. They brought different perspectives on perceived benefits of the project and focused more on the broader revitalization effort in their discussions.

Adjacent Resident Meeting, July 13, 2022 – Two (2) residents attended a presentation and base map activity for the park project at Old Pond School. One (1) resident resided directly to the south of the park and the other to the northeast of it, across Manchester Road.

Student Route 66 Taskforce Meeting, July 20, 2022 – Six (6) students attended the first Taskforce meeting, with a focus on the park project. Students had an opportunity to learn more about the history of the park and engaged in the same base map activity, with scaled cut-outs, as conducted with Historic Preservation Commissioners.

Route 66 Roadside Park Visioning Workshop, July 26, 2022 – SWT Design led the Route 66 Roadside Park Project Team, now with student members, in activities that included conceptual bubble maps and visual preference boards. Additionally, the group was able to discuss their own ideas for the park and indicate group preferences towards each of them.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE PARK PROJECT >>>

An immediate next step for the park project is to develop parameters for a student design competition that would take place soon after the beginning of the school year. The Department is meeting with SWT Design, and potentially some school district personnel and Commission Taskforce Liaisons, to discuss this topic on Wednesday, August 3rd, and will keep the Commission informed as to the outcome.

Additionally, SWT Design has identified a need for additional feedback from the Commission regarding preferred conceptual layouts in relation to the visual preferences indicated at the Visioning Workshop. Therefore, a special meeting may be scheduled in August for this purpose.

IN CLOSING >>>

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. A presentation is planned on these matters at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this information and discussion of the same.