



WILDWOOD

July 29, 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
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 represents 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.

The discussion around the publication of the book over the last several meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission has largely focused on the following items:

1. Approval of content for the final chapters of the book.
2. Selection of a Copy Editor.
3. Timeline for the book's completion.

Today, the Department will present to the Commission its recommendations for completion of this project, providing updates concerning each of these topics.

TODAY'S DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Addressing the Ending of the Wildwood History Book

At the beginning of this year, the Historic Preservation Commission was offered several opportunities to review and comment on the final chapter manuscripts. While there was generally unanimous approval for "Chapter 6" or the Incorporation Chapter, there were several discussions regarding Chapter 5, covering the period from 1990-2021, revealing opposing viewpoints and potential areas of concern, possibly foreshadowing similar reactions in the broader community. The Department and Commission Members, at the time of these discussions, suggested adding an Epilogue, addressing word choice in the text, condensing the content on specific topics, and reorganizing content to end the chapter with a celebration of "community resilience." However, with each round of revisions, the Department, Members of the Commission, and even the book's primary author, Ms. VonGruben, made comments that suggested the fifth chapter of the book might simply be too recent of a period to benefit from a historical perspective.

With time, and the addition of a Copy Editor offering new insight to the task, the Department and project team have come to the conclusion that, if the goal of this book is to celebrate the area's history and build shared community identity, it may be best achieved by ending the book with the City's Incorporation, followed by an epilogue in the form of a photo essay, "Celebrating 25 Years of Wildwood," with photos of each of the new city's milestones (thereby eliminating Chapter 5).

Furthermore, Ms. VonGruben has suggested the following revisions to reincorporate some of the removed content in other sections of the book:

- 1) In Chapter 3, Page 136, there is a text box: "The Essen Log Cabin Caper." In Chapter 5, manuscript Page 40-42, there is written "The Essen Log Cabin Caper - the 2019 Update," with photos of logs and the diagram for reconstruction. Ms. VonGruben suggests adding this content to the text box in Chapter 3.
- 2) In Chapter 4, Page 234, Pond School is discussed. In Chapter 5, manuscript Page 18, there is a paragraph about Old Pond and New School, including the donation and renovation. She suggests making this reference a sidebar in Chapter 4.
- 3) One of the subjects the Commission desired for Chapter 5 was a history of Wildwood Historical Society. She suggests this history could be an appendix to the book.
- 4) In Chapter 5, manuscript Pages 4-7, there is a section on personal reflections. She suggests these could become an appendix.
- 5) One of the subjects the Commission desired for Chapter 5 was more complete histories of fire and police protection.

- In Chapter 4, Pages 305-306, police services are discussed. She suggests adding a sidebar/text box here that would include interview material from St. Louis County Police-Wildwood Precinct that was in Chapter 5, manuscript Pages 21-23.
- In Chapter 4, Page 307, fire protection services are discussed. She suggests adding a sidebar/text box in that section that would include the interview material from MetroWest Fire Protection District that was in Chapter 5, manuscript Page 23.

Generally, the Department is supportive of these ideas, but recommends directing the Copy Editor to review them in the context of book flow and advise accordingly.

Ms. VonGruben has advised that, if the Commission approves of this new direction, Chapter 5 will be held at the Wildwood Historical Society, in its library, for use at a future date.

Today, the Department requests discussion and action from the Commission on this proposed new ending of the Wildwood History Book.

Selection of Book Copy Editor

The Department welcomes Mary Andino to the team as the book's Copy Editor. Mary comes well-qualified for this task, holding a Ph.D. in History from Washington University, and extensive experience working as an editor, including for the South Dakota Historical Society. She has already begun to inform the work and offer her insights to it.

Schedule for Book Completion

Recently, the Department has advised the Commission that its new target for book completion would be 2023. This new target date was projected based on the changing circumstances of members of the project team, the addition of a copy editor, and the struggles associated with the book's ending, as described above. On July 14th, the project team (inclusive of members of the Department, Mary Andino, Ms. VonGruben, and Stacey Mincoff, the book's Graphic Designer) met to discuss a realistic project schedule, given each task outlined. Additional insight was provided by Mary Andino, from her significant experience accomplishing similar tasks. When all members were polled, the target date for book completion appeared to be more realistically the weekend of July 4th in 2023 vs. the City's incorporation month, as previously discussed. A project schedule is included in this item for the Commission's review.

This information is provided for informational purposes only. No action is required at this time.

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. Thank you for your consideration of this information and discussion of the same.



WILDWOOD

Project Schedule – Wildwood History Book

July 21, 2022

Task Description	Duration*	Start Date	End Date	Responsible Party
1) Final Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Front Matter - HPC Past & Present - City Map - 25 Years of Wildwood Photos - Finalize Incorporation Chapter Content - Edits to Appendix 	1.5 Months	7/15/22	8/31/22	RK, JVG
2) Copy Edit Entire Manuscript	2.5 Months	7/18/22	9/30/22	MA
3) Jill & City to Review and Approve Edits	1 Month	10/1/22	10/31/22	JVG, JV, RK
4) Book Formatting	1-2 Months	11/1/22	12/31/22	SM
5) Final Review of Re-Designed and Reformatted Version <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Table of Contents - Index - Verify everything located correctly 	3 Weeks	1/1/23	1/20/23	JVG
6) Inclusion of Jill's Edits	1 Month	1/23/23	2/24/23	SM
7) Final Verification of Inclusions	2 Weeks	2/27/23	3/10/23	JVG
8) Book Launch Event Planning	4 Months	3/1/23	7/1/23	RK, JV, MR, JVG, HPC, WHS
9) Submit to Publisher	1 Week	3/13/23	3/17/23	RK
10) Publisher to Send Two Proofs	1-2 Weeks	3/20/23	3/31/23	Amazon
11) Review and Approve Proofs	1 Month	4/1/23	4/30/23	JVG, MA, City, HPC, CC
12) HPC Review of Proof	April Meeting	TBD	TBD	RK, JV, HPC
13) City Council Review of Proof	May Meeting	TBD	TBD	RK, JV, CC
14) Submit to Publisher and Order Donated Copies of Book	1 Month	5/16/23	6/16/23	RK, JV
15) Book Launch Event	Event	7/1/23		All

* Note: If achievable and not at the sacrifice of quality or other obligations, each step is to be completed ahead of the target deadline to build in additional buffer periods for future steps.