



September 7, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Celebration Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Parade Details – Selection of a Grand Marshal (Wards – All)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Steve Cross, City Administrator
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner
Kristin Naeger, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Stacy Chanski, Recreation Specialist

PARADE DETAILS >>> Grand Marshal... At the special meeting of the Celebrate Wildwood Commission, the attending members discussed the changes that had to be accommodated due to the unexpected death of Virgil Schmidt, with his brother, Jim, thereafter, declining to participate in the parade. These changes needed to be addressed, thereby allowing another candidate or candidates to be considered for this special honor at the parade. After the discussion among the members, a decision was made in this regard.

The decision was to not change the selection of the Grand Marshal, Virgil Schmidt, but rather take this opportunity to honor and memorialize him, as a great representative for the community that predated the establishment of Wildwood, and then acknowledge his participatory role thereafter in Wildwood. To recognize Mr. Schmidt, the Commission Members offered the following steps in this regard:

1. Acknowledge Mr. Schmidt as Grand Marshal in the West NewsMagazine pullout section of it (**completed**).
2. Acknowledge Mr. Schmidt in the parade by having a place set aside for him in it.
3. Acknowledge Mr. Schmidt at the Opening Ceremonies of the event, with his daughter on stage during these festivities.
4. Acknowledge Mr. Schmidt within the program provided to all attendees.

Certainly, these are just a few steps that can be considered. Others may exist and can be offered at tonight's meeting for inclusion as well. After the discussion at tonight's meeting, all of the identified steps will be put into place for the September 24, 2022 event.

Other Details ... The Department of Planning would note that almost forty (40) participants have committed to the parade, with a range of interests being represented. Additionally, the City has arranged for music to be provided, given the Drum and Fife Corp of the St. Louis County Police Department is not available this day. With these large number of participants, also including the Mayor, City Council, and this Commission, the parade should have something for everybody. Again, the parade will start at Schnucks Wildwood Crossing at 10:00 a.m., with all parties requested to be at the staging area no later than 9:00 a.m.

SUMMARY AND CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any of the Commission Members should have comments or questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on this matter at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review of this information and input on the same.