



WILDWOOD®

January 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Celebrate Wildwood Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: Discussion Of Memorial Program For Event (**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
Kris Naeger, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Stacy Chanski, Recreation Specialist

DISCUSSION FROM NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING >>> The Commission Members, when this Memorandum was presented to them at the November 2022 meeting, held a long discussion about the Memorial Program and its intended purpose. Some of the Commission Members believed it would be a more universal offering, not just limited to parties involved in this event only. Others were not sure. After this discussion, the Commission agreed to delay further consideration and take it up at its next meeting and develop a better understanding of its intent and components. Below is the Memorandum as it was presented at the November 2022 meeting to the Commission Members.

BACKGROUND >>> The Wildwood Celebration Commission held a discussion about a new program, which was in the context of this year's Grand Marshal passing before the event and how it might be appropriate to develop a memorial program for individuals that have provided extraordinary contributions to the event and, to a similar degree, the City's efforts in this regard. The passing of Virgil Schmidt helped to focus this discussion for the Commission Members and offered a firsthand insight in this regard. The parameters of the program, and how individuals are selected are integral parts of this program, along with where to display the names of these individuals that are selected for this special recognition by the City of Wildwood, are key areas of discussion and needed consensus for the Commission.

POSSIBLE COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM >>> Two (2) components identified for this memorial program and are summarized below:

1. **Criteria for Selection >>>** The Department would note the following possible criteria in this regard:
 - a. Member of the Wildwood Celebration Commission;
 - b. City Council liaison to the Wildwood Celebration Commission;
 - c. Long-time volunteer at the event;
 - d. Business entity that has supported the event through donations, sponsorships, or other outreach; or
 - e. Organization entity that has supported the event through donations, sponsorships, or their outreach.
2. **Location for Display >>>** The Department would note the Village Green property will have a permanent stage and pavilion area to replace the temporary stage that are used over the years for this purpose. The stage and pavilion area will be of a size to accommodate a plaque, tile, panel, or area on some part of the structure to place the names associated with the memorial program. Given the Village Green will eventually be the permanent location of the Celebrate Wildwood Event, the names that become part of the memorial program will be visible during the event, and at all other times.

Staying with the use of the Village Green site as the location for this memorial program, the recognition of these individuals can be accomplished by the offering of pavers for these purposes. The City has used pavers as a fundraiser for Old Pond School and has been a popular approach to acknowledging people at that location. In this case, the pavers would not be sold, but rather awarded to individuals, as part of this proposed memorial program.

NEXT STEPS >>> The Department would ask the Commission Members to comment on these components of this program, from the standpoints of support or not, and anything that may be added, changed, or eliminated. This conversation will lead to a further refinement of the program, if accepted by City Council. Therefore, at tonight's meeting, the components will be discussed in detail, along with any other items of interest.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If you should need any additional information or have questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. Thank you again for your consideration of this request and input on the same.