



WILDWOOD

February 23, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: Update on Potential Project for Westland Acres (**Ward Two**)

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
Robyn Keefe, AICP, Planner

BACKGROUND >>> The City Council received the attached report at its meeting on February 13, 2023 regarding the Commission's proposed preservation project for the Westland Acres Community. The item did not generate any conversation at that time, but now does allow for the next step of the process to proceed, given no objection or requested delays were made by the City Council. Therefore, the Department would like to review the next steps in this process and how the timelines for such can proceed, if the Commission is agreeable to them.

Based upon the previous Memorandum that was provided to the Commission at its January 2023 meeting, the steps in this process were detailed as follows and generally accepted by the Members:

1. Set forth the defining goals of this effort to be first shared with the Westland Acres Community and City Council and Mayor Bowlin.
2. Seek grant funding for recording the history of the area, i.e. a Master Plan, including oral interviews with community and church members, particularly as part of the State of Missouri's Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, which allows the City preferential consideration of eligible projects.
3. Develop the Master Plan for the recording of the Westland Acres Community history that sets forth goals and policies for engagement of key parties, along with memorializing its residents, land, and history.
4. Define how best to recognize and preserve the key elements of this historic community, examples include interpretative signage, on-line information, etc., from development and changes relating to growth.
5. Complete a comprehensive pictorial and video history of the current land area in the community, while researching past representations of it, specifically photographs.
6. Consider a second Historic Community Marker in the Westland Acres Community, at Union Baptist Church and cemetery.

These steps are considered a partial list for the purposes of these early discussions on this preservation project, given the Commission may have additional items to add to the list.

NEXT STEPS >>> In regards to Item #1 on the above list, the Department is recommending the following goals should be considered in this regard:

1. The project should be viewed as an effort that started in the Westland Acre Community, not City Hall, to ensure a proper perspective on processes and products.
2. The project must highlight the church's role and position in the community.
3. The project should recognize the property rights of the owners regarding the future use of their lots for new development.
4. The project must be complementary to the former recognition by the Mayor and City Council in their honoring this community.
5. The project should be guided by the accepted principles and practices of recording historical communities including oral interviews.

Again, the Department would ask the Commission Members to add any items to this list that are supported by the group or amend/delete them from the five (5) items identified above. Once this list is generally accepted, it can be the guide of starting the initial steps of the City's engagement of the community.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any of the Commission Members should have comments or questions in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on this item at tonight's Commission meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this information and comments on the same.