



WILDWOOD

September 11, 2023

The Honorable City Council
City of Wildwood, Missouri
16860 Main Street
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: **Proposed Changes to Historic Preservation Commission Composition (Wards - All)**

Council Members:

BACKGROUND >>> In June 2022, the Department proposed to the Historic Preservation Commission that it permanently add one (1) or two (2) youth liaisons to its membership through amendments of its By-Laws and Section 440.020 Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Wildwood Municipal Code. The Commission discussed such amendments at its following meeting in July 2022 and appeared favorable to them, though it was determined at subsequent meetings that additional review and discussion were needed with the City Attorney and City leadership. On a temporary basis, given Nolan Myers had been elected as a Student Route 66 Taskforce Liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission by its members, he continued to participate on it through that mechanism.

The impetus for this initial discussion around youth liaison(s) was the establishment of the Student Route 66 Taskforce serving the Commission's Route 66 revitalization goals (particularly those items around multigenerational engagement), including the planning and design of the proposed Route 66 Roadside Park project, the orchestration of a student design competition, development of promotional videos and materials, and the planning and execution of two (2) themed events: Route 66 Movie Night and Scavenger Hunt. The Taskforce was recognized at the May 8, 2023, City Council meeting for these undertakings and received a national award for *Excellence in Historic Preservation* by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

At the April 2023 Historic Preservation Commission meeting, Members discussed support for adding youth members to the Commission and directed the Department to investigate the matter further with the City Attorney and City Leadership. These discussions took place, resulting in a final draft amendment to present to the Commission. Additionally, the Department conducted substantial research on the subject, which identified a national trend towards including youth in local governance and non-profit leadership boards. Locally, several municipalities have Youth Advisory Councils.

At the July 2023 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission endorsed the enclosed draft amendment, which adds up to two (2) youth members to the Commission, extends voting rights to Commission Liaisons, and adds an Advisor position to it as well.

On two (2) occasions, Nolan Myers, seventh (7th) and now, eighth (8th) grade, has testified to the Commission about his experience serving upon it as its Youth Liaison:

April 27, 2023 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting:

I really love getting to work with this. I've learned a lot from being able to just even sit here and listen to how you talk and how you plan all this stuff out and how it actually gets to become an actual thing, like this Essen Log Cabin. It's kind of cool to watch it grow from an idea to an actual project. And I'd be more than glad to continue to be a part of this and work with this.

August 24, 2023 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting:

Thank you, all of you, for giving me the opportunity to do this for the year that I did. Before starting the Route 66 Taskforce, I don't think I could do a word of public speaking. But by now, it has really helped me a lot, especially in leadership roles and other things outside of this such as school and football and other sports. This is something I'm going to remember for the rest of my life, and this was really cool and amazing to get to do. Thank you.

RECOMMENDATION >>>

The endorsed enclosed draft contains the following three (3) components, all of which have been reviewed with the City Attorney:

1) ADD UP TO TWO (2) YOUTH MEMBERS

- Youth members must be 13 years of age to serve, but under 18 at the time of appointment.
- Youth members must be residents of Wildwood.
- Youth members' initial terms would be one year, but they could serve a total of three (3) years, upon reappointment.
- Youth members will apply for the position via an application process administered by the Department of Planning, recommended by the Commission, and will be appointed by the Mayor.

2) EXTEND VOTING RIGHTS TO COMMISSION LIAISONS

Recent changes to the Commission's composition have included extending voting rights to Council Liaisons on the Commission. Given the success of this amendment, the Commission is proposing voting rights also extend to its Board and Commission Liaisons.

3) ADD A COMMISSION ADVISOR POSITION

Finally, the Commission is requesting authority to designate an advisor to it, defined as "a person with exceptional knowledge, qualifications, and experience, which may include, but is not necessarily limited

to, a former Commissioner.” This advisor would be permitted to serve the Commission in an advisory capacity by majority vote of the Commission, without compensation.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION >>>

Tonight, the Historic Preservation Commission is requesting review and direction from the City Council on these proposed changes. If City Council Members are in support of moving forward with them, the draft amendment will be introduced as legislation at the next regular City Council meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any City Council Member should have other questions or comments before tonight’s meeting about this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. This item is on tonight’s Work Session Agenda under ‘For Action.’ Thank you for your review and direction on the same.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF WILDWOOD
Janice Stevens, Chair
Historic Preservation Commission

- Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Thomas Lee, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner
Robyn Keefe, A.I.C.P., Planner

*The Department of Planning and Parks developed this report, in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Commission. Content reflects the Commission’s consideration of this subject and not necessarily an individual’s position or opinion.