



Wildwood Celebration Commission Minutes

Meeting Date:

- September 7, 2022
- 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Libby Wilson
- Karen Jehling
- Sharon Hutson
- Deborah Coleman
- Holly Ferris
- Charlie Siebert
- Joe Garritano, Council Liaison
- Kristin Naeger, Staff Liaison

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs Garritano and Wilson

Co-Chair Garritano called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and requested roll call be taken.

II. Roll Call

A roll call of members was conducted, and the following individuals were in attendance, both in-person and via the Zoom Webinar Platform:

Commission Members:

Libby Wilson
Karen Jehling
Sharon Hutson
Deborah Coleman
Holly Ferris
Charlie Siebert
Joe Garritano, Council Liaison, Co-Chair
Kristin Naeger, Staff Liaison

Absent Member: Commission Member Vicki Helfrey

Other Officials & City Staff:

Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks
Stacy Chanski, Recreation Specialist
Officer Steve Deghelder, Wildwood Precinct
Sergeant Don Jacquin, Wildwood Precinct

III. Approval of Minutes from the August 3, 2022, Meeting of the Commission

Motion was made by Commissioner Hutson, seconded by Commissioner Ferris, to approve the meeting minutes of August 3, 2022. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Co-Chair Garritano.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. 2022 Celebrate Wildwood Event

Director Vujnich introduced Recreation Specialist, Stacy Chanski, and mentioned the Celebrate Wildwood shirts have been distributed to the Commission.

a. Venue and Layout and Highlights

Discussion began with Director Vujnich identifying the Event Layout Guide details, which will be given to vendors and attendees. Praise given to Stacey Mincoff, as she turned around the layout and revisions in less than a week's time. Sponsorships, with in-kind donations, totaled \$15,000. The layout is similar to last year, with the authors, artists, and craft vendors on Main Street, with the food/drink vendors on the field. St. Louis County Police Department will assist with security and will be on the grounds during the event. The Prime Place trailer has been removed and will be a spot for band parking and the RV trailer, which will act as the green room for BritBeat.

There will be parking passes for the Commission to use behind City Hall on the day of the event. Co-Chair Wilson asked if the parking area will be barricaded, and Director Vujnich stated no, but will be monitored and signed. Co-Chair Garritano asked the Commission to thank the vendors for their participation at the event and is pleased with the amount of food vendors. Director Vujnich mentioned the record numbers at the Summer Concert Series this year, so attendance at this event is expected to be high.

b. Parade Details – "Route 66 – Then and Now" – and Judge Selection

Discussion began by Director Vujnich identifying the Grand Marshal for the parade, and the decision to select the Schmidt brothers and the Lafayette wrestlers, but Virgil sadly passed away, and the wrestlers were not able to make the parade due to college commitments. The decision was made to honor Virgil Schmidt at the parade, along with an article in West Newsmagazine. A suggestion was made to set aside an honorary place for Virgil as part of the parade, the opening ceremony, and as part of the event program. Discussion held to invite Virgil's daughter and brother to participate in the parade, with a golf cart that would honor Virgil, as the Grand Marshal, with bunting and a photograph.

Director Vujnich mentioned there are over 43 participants in the parade, not including the Council Members. The County Police were not able to get their bagpipers, but the City was able to secure two bagpipers and a drummer, along with St. Boogie Brass Band. Ten (10) parade participants requested to be judged and the winners will get an award. Discussion held regarding the judges for the parade and a decision was made to reach out to the former Wildwood mayors to see if they would be interested in participating.

c. Volunteer Opportunities, including List of Jobs

Discussion was started by Director Vujnich about volunteer opportunities, if the Commission is interested. Volunteer duties include working in the City Tent, delivering water to vendors, and tent sitting in two-hour shifts. Commission Members can reach out to staff if they are interested.

d. Other Items – Update Sheet of Tasks, including Vendor Outreach

Discussion was started by Director Vujnich that our update is the last of the year, as everything is complete or nearing completion. There was not a lot of new information presented today, but all

information is focused on the layout. Additional bounce houses were added this year due to not having the Boy Scouts. Everything is ready to go.

Director Vujnich mentioned that, if the Virgil Schmidt article did not make the West Newsmagazine in time, the City could provide the information to the publication for a follow-up, and are disappointed that it was not in the newspaper.

VI. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, October 5, 2022

The Commission was reminded the next meeting date will be Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in person or Zoom (hybrid), at Wildwood City Hall.

Director Vujnich reminded the Commission that November is a critical meeting for the budget. The December meeting is not held, resuming in January.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Siebert, to adjourn the meeting. Having no further business to discuss, and hearing no objections, a voice vote was taken to approve the motion, with unanimous, affirmative result. The motion was declared approved by Co-Chair Garritano. The meeting concluded at 6:38 p.m.