

Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2014

Minutes taken by Tricia Whelan

Attendees: John Gruender, Gary Stein, Guy Tilman, Cindy Lau, Bill Dowdy, Darcy Capstick, Mike Whelan, Tricia Whelan, Eileen Sellers, Don Collins, Alan Politte, Kimberly Cameron
Staff Liaison: Tom McCarthy; Steve Jarvis, Committee Chair: Michelle Keesal

Michelle Keesal called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the June 14, 2014 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

The bid process for the construction of the gazebo has started.

We are discussing offering free canoeing and kayaking classes through Alpine Shop.

The airplane movie was cancelled.

The security cameras are being installed.

Ambassador Program:

Tricia Whelan discussed the Ambassador Program. Each of the Parks Committee Members has now received a Parks backpack with information regarding our Parks. This also includes cups with concert dates available for distribution to the public. When visiting the Parks, information can be provided to visitors to the Parks. Also, the Park Review forms have been updated and are available by email for use in evaluating the parks. Guy Tilman reworked two of the forms so that it is on a ½ sheet size page and could be printed on card stock to make it easier to use when visiting the Parks.

Volunteers Needed:

A new volunteer sheet was passed around as there are three concerts and the Taste of St. Louis available for volunteering. All Parks Committee Members are encouraged to participate. Tom McCarthy talked about the volunteers needed for various events. The Taste of St. Louis is a three day event and there will be 40 restaurants from all over St. Louis participating. It is estimated there will be 200,000 people attend the event over the three day period.

Park Reviews

Several of the members updated the committee on the Parks Reviews. Tricia Whelan has visited Eberwein Park. One park visitor suggested more frequent trash pickup as the smell by the dog trash can is a little overwhelming. One of the community garden users was very complimentary about the community garden and was eager to know the first planting date for 2015. Darcy Capstick also updated the committee on her visit to Eberwein Park. Cindy Lau reviewed Central Park. She suggested putting a dog bag dispensary by the YMCA. Steve Jarvis discussed the runoff where the lake is filled and is most likely from the mall. It is a detention lake. Darcy Capstick discussed having people take the trash with them when they are through using the Park. Guy Tilman visited two Parks and saw no one. He visited the Rivers Edge and enjoyed the walk. It was beautiful and the flowers were wonderful. Guy Tilman also visited the Riparian Trail and said it was in good shape. The creek has become harder to see due to

the growth of the vegetation. It was pretty hot when he walked it which is probably why there was no one else using it. Tom McCarthy stated that the creek is going to need to be stabilized as there has been more development in that area and it gets washed out. Steve Jarvis stated that there will need to be additional work done to stabilize the area. The Parks Committee has hired a new Tech person and will plan on getting a Parks Review App developed in the near future. Tom McCarthy discussed a complementary phone call of the Central Park and sculptures that he had received. It is nice to get those kinds of phone calls.

Staff Report

Alan Politte asked about the various grant programs. Tom McCarthy discussed the St. Louis County municipal park grant of \$272,000 and the city match of \$25,000. This grant will help with the pavilion, fishing dock, trail, and signage at Rivers Edge Park. There is a \$9,500 municipal grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation for prairie restoration at Eberwein. This is a 2-3 year process. We did not get the NRPA grant for \$270,000 for the Pond and there was a \$30,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Revenue that we did not get. We did get a grant from Ameren for \$50,000 for the solar panels at the Ballpark. This is good over the long term for energy conservation. Alan Politte asked if the council was aware of the grants. Tom McCarthy stated that Mr. Herring signs off on the proposals. Tom McCarthy stated that Rivers Edge will have a 2015 Spring formal opening. John Gruender asked about solar panels. Tom McCarthy stated these are being done at the F quad which has 8 sets of bleachers. The grant was obtained to help offset the cost of solar and helps generate around \$5,000 a year in energy savings due to the panels. Steve Jarvis discussed the Rivers Edge and stated there was a pre-bid meeting and bids are due for the pavilion, ramps and dock. They are working with MSD and their requirements and hope to get some good competitive bids in. The goal is to have the pavilion, ramp and dock completed by the end of the year. We have to meet the deadline requirements of the grant. We try to make sure that we are getting those grants done from the previous year to be in compliance. The pavilion cost is approximately \$80M and the dock cost is approximately \$30M. The trail at Rivers Edge is currently a mulch surface of wood chips and we are going to try for more of a cracked stone surface similar to the Katy trail. Those are the issues we are working on with MSD to ensure water runoff is not a problem. We are utilizing the expertise in our city engineering department which will take some of the work load off of the parks department. We are working on a sign at the CVAC similar to the one at the Amphitheater. We have the design completed.

The biggest challenge at the CVAC is that people don't realize it's a City Park. Visitors to the area still don't understand it is a City Park. We are trying to improve the curb appeal. We have new gates in the parking lot and it makes a positive statement.

Tom McCarthy discussed the Olive/Woodsmill area. There is a site that was a gas station and is now an asphalt site and we are going to beautify it. Dierbergs will let us tap into their irrigation system and make it look much nicer. The 141/Olive area has some obstacles and erosion issues and will need some reconstruction. The 141/Olive area has the Chesterfield logo and it would have been nice if the RGA Bridge area also had the Chesterfield logo.

Program Update

Tom McCarthy discussed the Taste of Trucktober event which will be held on October 18th from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Amphitheater. There will be a celebration of food with 40 gourmet food trucks, including dessert trucks, beer, wine, music and games. Guy Tilman suggested that the food

trucks be spaced well so that the lines won't be confusing. The food trucks will all be along Veterans Parkway. Tom McCarthy stated there will be tickets packets for the food purchases.

Regarding the Taste of St. Louis event, Tom McCarthy said the times have not been worked out yet but he will follow up when the times for volunteering are determined.

Tom McCarthy stated that the fall brochure is coming out soon. Tom McCarthy discussed the Eco Festival and the Rush Tribute Band which are two upcoming events at the Amphitheater. Tom McCarthy discussed future programming for the Amphitheater. There is a plan to have the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and a grouping of Orchestras such as the Civic Orchestra, possibly to have four free concerts. It is estimated that 3,500 to 4,000 people would attend these free concerts. Tom McCarthy stated that the amphitheater seats 304 in the seat and an additional 3,500 to 4,000 in the grass. Frozen had around 4,000 attendees. Tom McCarthy discussed a potential Drive-In Movie Night at the CVAC. The participants could use their smart phone to listen to the movie so no speakers would be needed. Mike Whelan discussed a potential fishing derby at Central Park. Rivers Edge is still needing time for the fish to be stocked. Mike Whelan discussed showing a college football game at the Amphitheater such as the Mizzou Tigers. The Mizzou store in the Valley could be a potential sponsor. The screen would need to be set up for a night time showing and licensing rights would need to be evaluated as there is a per seat fee. In addition scheduling would need to be considered as game times are subject to change. Tom McCarthy stated that the showing of the Cardinals playoff games has also been discussed previously. The projector can be used for an evening event.

Alan Politte commented on how far the parks program has come as the first event was a volleyball game and BBQ at the Long Road/Railroad Park several years ago. Alan Politte complimented Tom McCarthy and his staff on doing a fantastic job.

Old Business

Darcy Capstick discussed recycling and keeping our Patrons informed about trash and thanking them for disposing of their trash. This will help improve litter control. Darcy Capstick discussed the 18th Chesterfield Recycling event to be held on November 8th, 2014 at Central City Park. We will celebrate the 5 R's of recycling and this will help the Monarch Butterflies.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.