

Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2014

Minutes taken by Tricia Whelan

Attendees: Mike Casey, John Nations, John Gruender, Gary Stein, Guy Tilman, Cindy Lau, Bill Dowdy, Darcy Capstick, Mike Whelan, Tricia Whelan, Eileen Sellers
Staff Liaison: Tom McCarthy, Committee Chair: Michelle Keesal

Michelle Keesal called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the April 21, 2014 meeting were approved.

Veterans Honor Park Presentation:

Michelle Keesal introduced Jan Misuraca who gave a presentation on the Veterans Honor Park. Jan stated that the Veterans Honor Park is a nonprofit and the mission is to honor Veterans of the United States Armed Forces; past, present, and future by acknowledging the sacrifices made, sense of duty and courage they have displayed in service to our country. The Veterans Honor Park will be located in Chesterfield's Central Park near the Amphitheater and will be a place for families and individuals to gather in honor of Veterans. Right now is the fund raising stage and there will be a matching fund from the City since the site will be in a Chesterfield City Park. There is now a marketing brochure and website for the site and any help to raise awareness is greatly appreciated. The website address is <http://vhp.chesterfield.mo.us>. Once the site is completed, the City will maintain it. There are brick pavers that can be purchased to honor veterans.

Ambassador Program: Tricia Whelan discussed the Ambassador program. The Park Forms are being updated and will be available at the next meeting. Backpacks with Parks information have been provided to each Parks Committee Member. These items can be distributed to Parks visitors. More details will be forthcoming at the next Parks meeting.

Volunteer Sheet Updates:

The Volunteer sheet for the various Parks events was distributed and updated.

NRPA Grant

Tom McCarthy discussed the National Recreation Parks Association Grant. This grant would help with the pond at Eberwein Park, and would assist in making small bodies of water where kids can learn about pond life. There will be some signage. The City will find out about the grant by Mid-July. The amount of the grant is up to \$150,000.00 and The Parks would have use of approximately \$25,000. Tom McCarthy stated that a sidewalk was put in at Eberwein to fix the water drainage issue.

Staff Report

Construction Updates:

Tom McCarthy stated that the Parks continue to work on the Rivers Edge Park. They have put up a banner at the entrance. They are working with the Army Corp to get approval to put up a big sign and are also working with the levee district. MSD is raising flags about portions of the trail as may not drain properly. The bid process for the construction of the gazebo has started with a grant from St. Louis Parks for \$270,000.00 and we have put \$25,000 towards it. The Rivers Edge is open but we have not yet had an official grand opening. There is no fishing at the present, however people are fishing but not supposed to. The police will go down there to monitor activity and ensure the signs don't get stolen. It is a gorgeous Park. We have to get the fishing population up and stabilized prior to allowing fishing at the Rivers Edge Lake. We are discussing offering free canoeing and kayaking classes through Alpine Shop.

Program Facility Updates

Tom McCarthy discussed the "Frozen" movie showing. It was a huge success. At least 2,500 people attended. There was a snow globe onsite for pictures. There were characters onsite in costume. The Airplane movie was cancelled. Notifications are made by Facebook and Friends of the Park emails. Tom McCarthy is working on a system of how to communicate when events are cancelled. Tom McCarthy discussed the Tour De Wellness ride. There were three ride types. There were approximately 450 riders and it was a good event. We are working to see if we can do the event again next year.

Tom McCarthy discussed the CVAC. The security cameras are being installed. There is video surveillance, plate readers, and a public address system. These are also available at the Amphitheater and swimming pool. There have been no incidents since the cameras have been installed. Regarding Eberwein Park, there will be a tree replanting in the future to provide a better buffer between the Park and the retail area.

Park Reviews

Tom McCarthy discussed the Park reviews. At Eberwein and Riparian Trail, the people are very happy and the trails serve the local population. Some group walkers but mostly individuals. The Chesterfield Chamber has a walking group and is using the levees in the Valley. There was some discussion about a Skate Park in Chesterfield. A public survey was done about 10 years ago and probably needs to be updated. Darcy Capstick discussed the wide sidewalks which could be used by skateboarders and cyclists.

Tom McCarthy stated that several of the Chesterfield events have only a third who are from Chesterfield. This shows the wide area the events support.

New Business

Michelle Keesal stated that she would be on vacation in July, 2014. There will be no Parks meeting in July.

John Gruender discussed a recent article in the paper about the private development in the Valley. There is currently nothing new to report. It has been approved by the council and waiting for St. Louis County to act.

Darcy Capstick discussed a planting event to be held at Eberwein Park on June 21, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. They will be planting native wildflowers and everyone is asked to bring trowels and shovels.

John Nations discussed the planning on creating the Pathway on the Parkway and the sidewalks, etc. and how we have connected the neighborhoods and how we are bringing people to Chesterfield. These were the goals previously set and that is exactly where we are moving to.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.