



**Parks & Rec Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
8/10/13 8:30am**

Minutes taken by Kimberly Cameron

**Attendees:** Gary Stein      Laura Schellenburg      Kimberly Cameron      John Gruender      Guy Tilman  
Cindy Lau      Darcy Capstick      Tricia Whelma      Mike Whelman      Don Collins  
Eileen Seller      Alan Pollite

Staff Liaison: Tom McCarthy      Committee Chair: Michelle Keesal

Tom introduced 2 interns (Anna & Coop)

**Approval of Minutes**

John Gruender, 2nd by Darcy Capstick

**White Board Vote:** This topic was skipped in July as Tom was unavailable.

Here are results of White Board Discussions at June Meeting:

**Category 1**

- Park Advisory Planning
- Recommend Land Acquisition/review available land
- Develop existing parcels
- Survey Community Desires
- Assist with evaluation of CAPRA
- Evaluated & prioritize committee programs

**Category 2**

- Explore Water Recreation (Fishing/Canoeing/Kayaking)

**Category 3**

- Develop/implement Ambassador Program
- Expand "Friends of Parks" Program
- Evaluate Committee Size, Structure and attendance requirements

**Category 4**

- Evaluate new ideas for Park Department
- Evaluate community farm/Agr. MO Spot Market

**Category 5**

- Support special programs/projects by the Parks Department

Vote of top 5 ideas resulted in the following:

1. Recommend land acquisition & available land
2. Evaluate new ideas for park development
3. Explore water recreation/fishing/canoeing, etc
4. Events for rivers edge (206 acres, 17 acre lake)
5. Develop ambassador program
5. Develop existing parcels

Michelle pointed out that Tom & his department will review our list to help cultivate a plan & prioritize.

Darcy asked for more details on Ambassador program and how that will look. Tom mentioned Friends of the Park, brochures, increasing volunteers, communication with them, etc.

## **Park Patrol Program**

Tom mentioned this would be informal, members will have shirts and visit the parks near their home. Visit with attendees, observe what's going on around park, etc. Tom wants to discuss dividing up the parks by committee members with monthly reports reviewed at each meeting

Darcy offered input from Eberwein Park - Neighbors are very observant of park activity. Darcy was there watching as Boy Scouts doing a volunteer project for the Purple Martins. Feedback was positive.

A feedback form will be created for consistency. This will be available at next meeting.

Kimberly offered a recommendation of branching out this program to becoming a community service opportunity (weekly park reviews & reports) for high school seniors, Eagle Scouts, others seeking community service, etc.

This would offer an opportunity to branch out vs. one more task for the core group to address. Tom suggested 2 younger members be added to the committee with the development of a Mentorship program.

Tricia suggested we get it started with the group and build towards something more (like mentoring, community service, etc.) so we are moving forward vs. continuing to discuss the idea. The group concurred.

## **Future of Tour de Parks (TDP)**

There are 2 dozen new activities in place to bring people to the parks that did not exist prior to TDP

Cindy felt it took up a ton of committee time and with more activities in place, does not believe it is the best use of our time. When new parks are created, we can offer events that are needed or gap in activities.

Eileen mentioned TDP started years ago as Summer Stroll to get people out and visiting the parks. Possibly we leave these activities up to the Parks Dept., offer input & volunteer when needed.

Darcy would like an overview of parks activities and schedule to evaluate any voids that we can fulfill.

Tom will prepare an overview of 2014 events to review at September meeting.

Michelle suggested we review to determine how we can best support.

Don asked about budget for 2014.

Tom mentioned there are some very large projects that are in need of funding and he can offer a list of these projects, funds needed and revenue they are currently generating. There will be a request of a 1/2 cent tax. Possibly \$700K - \$1M.

Don wanted to know if there will be funds for any projects we might suggest. Tom believes there may be several suggestions on their "wish list" that will come up from our committee as well

Example of costly projects coming up:

Eberwein Park path – It will be almost \$250K to fix the & drainage issue correction is estimated at another \$175K

Proposed budget goes to city council this fall

Tom has asked of GAIS where they may have possible land available

## **June Monthly Report from Tom**

Tom will start emailing this report to reduce paper footprint

- positive report for community understanding of the things they are doing

Tricia asked (of Tom) what he sees as the most exciting changes since his arrival 2 years ago. Tom believes the opportunities, funding, resources & backing from city council makes it so special working in Chesterfield. Many areas of growth with exciting things to come City Fest, outdoor theatre, athletic complex usage (lacrosse, flag football, ultimate frisbee, soccer), and the trail system

Alan commented that out of towers are very impressed with our fields

Staff Report

Rivers Edge (206 acres w/17 acre lake) is on schedule to open this fall - more of a nature park with trails, Monarch Levy trail to loop through it.

Issues with building due to flood plain. Looking at installing a dock for fishing (handicap accessible) with a future pavilion) Bike & walking traffic only as parking will be on the west end of outlet mall

Municipal Grant - working with MO Dept of Conserv. For a grant at Eberwein ( putting in a native prairie, nature, education Connect the trails at the south end, installing a boardwalk, small gazebo

Pond at Eberwein, need depths measurements to see if dredging is needed before construction of bridge

Lake #2 behind theatre - construction will occur this fall

- future project is extending riparian trail down Lydia hill to extend to wild horse creek (property is currently owned by Sacks Property)

West stream walk, off the playground, first set of steps on left - flag stoned surface to secure hillside (drainage issues) in works this Fall & next spring

Programming

concert: Backstoppalooza concert 8/11/13 Police dept asked for help and Parks Committee for this idea & Tom said let's get it on the calendar this year

St Luke's Wellness Ride

- feedback was that the initial course was too hard. Location was moved. Looking for this to be an annual event.

Pedal for the Cause - looking to move this to Chesterfield (4,000 cyclists) Working with Big Shark for an off road bicycle course/race for 11/10

Moonlight Run - marketing is at the press for fall brochure

Guy asked about signup sheet for Volunteers for Forks & Corks  
8/31 (3-10pm)

Additional Business

Darcy thanked Tom for bringing of MO Dept of Conservation for a grant (paperwork is due 9/13) Environmental Committee - bee keeper (87 years old) will grant his bees to Chesterfield 17th Recycle Day is 11/9 FREE

- Flyers to be available soon

Meeting adjourned 9:32am

Next meeting is September 14th

Meet at CAC Board Room 8:30am with tour of Rivers Edge after