

MINUTES
Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Committee
January 14, 2012
8:30 a.m.

Attendance:

Michelle Keesal

Guy Tilman

Darcy Capstick

Councilmember Barry Flachsbart

Tricia Whelan

Cindy Lau

Tom McCarthy

Gary Stein

Laura Schellenberg

Eileen Sellers

Michelle Keesal called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Michelle Keesal welcomed Tom McCarthy to the meeting. Tom McCarthy introduced himself to the group.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for November, 2011 were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports

Cindy Lau discussed the plan for the Tour De Parks. She prepared a planning sheet for an action plan regarding the parks and the schedule of the activities. She passed the Project Plan sheet out. She stated that there would be three tasks for the committee to accomplish;

1. Scavenger Hunt details
2. Prizes
3. Promotion

Volunteers would be needed for each task. Cindy passed around a volunteer sheet. The date of the Tour De Parks is May 12, 2012. Michelle Keesal stated that the time would be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The activities would be held at various parks. The Civic Orchestra would be playing at the Amphitheatre that evening and the prizes could be awarded at that time to the people who finished the scavenger hunt. The items to address are:

1. Which Parks to showcase
2. How the day will be organized
3. How to divide up the Parks

Darcy Capstick discussed the Eberwein Park and how many people are using it. Central Park and the Athletic Park were also discussed. The purpose of the Tour De Parks is to get people aware of our resources. Citizens may have driven by the Park but not be aware of all the amenities offered. Tom McCarthy passed around a recreation facilities inventory sheet and a map of the various parks.

The committee decided to showcase the following parks for the Tour De Parks:

1. Central Park/Riparian Trail
2. Athletic Complex/Wetlands
3. Dierbergs Mediation Park
4. Eberwein Park

Cindy Lau stated that the Tour De Parks would focus on a fun day with prizes for doing the scavenger hunt. Some of the prizes/giveaways could be water bottles, pedometers or compasses. Cindy Lau stated that the Tour could start at Central Park Pavilion where the participants could pick up their packets. Tom McCarthy stated that he would reserve the pavilion and the selected parks for the May 12th event. Councilman Barry Flachsbart stated that he liked the idea of walking in the parks. It would be likely that the young people would walk more and the older folks would walk less.

It was decided that the group would break into three committees to decide where we want to take the people at the various parks. The wetlands were discussed. The signage is at the head of the trail and cars could pull right up to the trailhead. There is a big sign and a map of the trail. The Levee Trail also has a map on top of the levee. The Athletic Complex and Central Park were also discussed.

Tom McCarthy stated that there is an Eagle Scout who is putting in Park Benches at the Riparian Trail. Tom McCarthy discussed the parking at Eberwein Park and that there will be grass parking for the Tour De Parks day. The Dierberg Meditation Park has a parking lot on Riverbend and there is a bench by the waterfall. There is a garden there and the waterfall is impressive. Darcy Capstick stated that the ultimate goal is to have a habitat at each Chesterfield Park.

Cindy Lau received the volunteer sheets and the committees for the Parks Day were assigned. The committees will meet separately from the regular meeting to plan the Parks Day.

Tom McCarthy will put out a preliminary information sheet on the Tour De Parks Day. The date will be May 12, 2012. The time will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be restrooms and concessions available. Tom will send an updated email showing updated pictures of the Parks.

Barry Flachsbart stated that the Council had approved the Parks budget for the Tour De Parks day. He stated that there would be some money available to purchase prizes. Tom McCarthy will update the committee on the budgeted amount. The Prize committee will work on the ideas for giveaways and prizes. Cindy Lau stated that we will need to understand how the scavenger hunt will work so that we all can proceed. It was decided that the scavenger hunt detail would need to be completed by the next meeting.

Staff Reports

Tom McCarthy updated the committee on the community garden at Eberwein Park. Steve Jarvis is working on the soil preparation. There will be garden fencing to keep the animals out. The City is working on how people can apply for the community garden. The plan is to have the people grow their own plants/vegetables/herbs on a 4 x 8 plot. So far there have been a dozen plots prepared. There will be water and rock paths between the plots to allow for access. In addition, the City will be putting in two shuffleboard courts and a butterfly garden at Eberwein. Mindy, the City Arborist, is applying for a grant for a nut grove program. The city is demolishing some dugouts and upgrading to new ones at the athletic complex. Also the complex will be offering Lacrosse for the first time. The City is also getting bids to redo the splash pad at the pool complex. Tom McCarthy also discussed outdoor themes at the Amphitheatre including a World outdoor Sanctuary on Raptors and a nature planting tour around the Amphitheatre. Tom McCarthy reported that the City has sold over 400 dog tags to the dog park in 2012.

Tom McCarthy will send out information on Park Definitions, Classifications, Standards, and Inventory to the members to see how our green space is being used. The amount of green space in Chesterfield was discussed. Barry Flachsbart stated that even if the amount of green space is small it is still beneficial. There are opportunities to share space with Ameren/MSD. Darcy Capstick discussed mapping the common ground/green space in the various Chesterfield subdivisions.

Additional Business

Darcy Capstick discussed recycling opportunities. She is assisting a Girl Scout cadet troop with their Silver Award. There will be a Fashion/Apparel Show at the Amphitheatre. Darcy Capstick asked about a flag display of our award in regard of our National Parks accreditation. It would be wonderful if we could get that recognition. Tom McCarthy stated that Kari and Steve have looked into it. It could be part of our Tour De Parks program. Tom McCarthy stated that he would follow up on this request.

Darcy Capstick stated that April 21st will be the 21st annual Chesterfield Earth Day and we will be sharing our ever green park system. There will be no more recycle drives at Dierbergs as single family dwellings are now recycling. We will have all textiles recycled at Earth Day. There will also be a recycling event on 11-3-12.

The city is still actively marketing the amphitheatre. The Cadet Girl Scouts will be using it as well as the World Bird Sanctuary as they are doing a Rapture show. There are also dances and other multi-cultural events scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.