

Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2014

Minutes taken by Tricia Whelan

Attendees: Laura Schellenberg, Alan Politte, Mike Whelan, Tricia Whelan, Guy Tilman, John Gruender, Darcy Capstick, Don Collins, Bill Dowdy, John Nations, Gary Stein, Cindy Lau
Staff Liaison: Tom McCarthy, Committee Chair: Michelle Keesal
Council Liaison: Mike Casey

Michelle Keesal called the meeting to order.

Approval of October Minutes

The minutes of the October 11, 2014 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

The spelling of the name of Councilman Bruce DeGroot was corrected.
Darcy Capstick asked if there were more of the Friends of the Parks Applications available.
Darcy Capstick was at the meeting on October 11, 2014.

Municipal Parks Grant 2015

Tom McCarthy discussed the Municipal Parks Grant for 2015. It appears that the City will get the Municipal grant for the Playgrounds at Central Park. This will allow for easier maintenance of the playgrounds. The grant will also help with the upgrade of the playground near the Miracle Field. The grant amount is \$265,000 and we have an 80-20 match.

Survey

Tom McCarthy stated that we are in process of preparing a Parks survey. He handed out a sample and asked the committee to review the sample questions and email him with comments/questions. The survey will be available this Spring/Summer. Michelle Keesal will add it as an agenda item at the next meeting. The survey will be available at all of our upcoming events. It will also be made available at Ascension and the Chesterfield Football Association and will be sent out to all of the Friends of the Parks. We now have over 600 people that have registered as Friends of the Parks. The survey will also be available online.

Arts

Tom McCarthy discussed Chesterfield Arts. Council did meet and discussed moving the Arts program in-house under the Parks and Recreation Department. The previous Chesterfield Arts group is looking at doing programs for people with disabilities and special needs. If the Chesterfield Parks and Recreation takes over the Arts program, there would be \$100,000 available for the arts operation. We are waiting to see if that is going to go through or not. The Council does want to go forward in-house. This would be a huge opportunity for Parks and Recreation. Alan Politte stated that there are a few additional items to be considered. The Mayor is thinking about vetoing the arts proposal. How will this play out with Citizen involvement or additional staff or will there be a separate Arts Commission? The details are still being worked out. The Mayor wanted more options than just the one that was presented. It will involve hiring staff. The Mayor has not vetoed it yet. That would come up at the January, 2015 meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities-Ambassador Program Dates

Tom McCarthy handed out the dates of upcoming events from March 2015 to October 2015. Volunteers will be needed to staff these events. Tricia Whelan will coordinate the Volunteers for these events. Emails will be sent out to the committee periodically so that volunteers can be coordinated prior to the events. It would be ideal to have a minimum of three Parks Members at each event. Some of the new events will focus on the new park, Rivers Edge. In addition there will be a Vintage Market Days on April 23-25 at the Amphitheater.

Rivers Edge

Tom McCarthy discussed the ribbon cutting for the Rivers Edge. It will be on March 25, 2015. Rivers Edge will be a special and unique park for the City. There will be trails and a pavilion. There will be a boat dock at the lake off of the pavilion. They are making a sign near the entrance that has the same appearance as the Eberwein Park sign. The Rivers Edge showcase event will be on April 11, 2015. We are obtaining contacts with Bass Pro and Ducks Unlimited and making other contacts including the Audubon Society. There will not be a trail to the Missouri River, but there is a pretty view of the Missouri River. The scenery changes depending on where you are and the time of year. The event will be from 9:30 to 1:30 p.m. For our next meeting regarding the Rivers Edge event, we will have an Agenda and determine how many volunteers will be needed. Tom will have his staff at the event. Darcy Capstick will contact Mindy, the arborist regarding the event.

Park Reviews

Darcy Capstick stated that her members of the Environment Committee were out and had only good things to say about our Parks.

Potential PRCAC Meeting Dates 2015

Tom McCarthy passed out potential Parks and Recreation Committee meeting dates for 2015. There will be not be a meeting on April, 11 2015 due to the Rivers Edge opening event.

Staff Reports

Tom McCarthy reported on the construction updates. The concession stand is being expanded as new activities are increased. Football and soccer seasons are increasing. It would be a good idea to use the fields on a more regular basis. The concession stands are now coming up to code with county. The concessions are open when the games are going on. There are 80 part time employees during the season. Three full time people are on staff year round. The concession prices are considered reasonable. The operation is in the black. The Pavillion and trails are being worked on at Rivers Edge. There is concrete being added to the CVAC area. The roads are getting paved. We are trying to bring everything up to the level of quality of the F Quad. We are finishing the stream walk near the pool at the Amphitheater. We are adding a product that reduces rainout and helps the fields fry quicker.

Program updates. Tom McCarthy stated that the website is being updated. Lisa Bobrzynski, Marketing/Communications Specialist came and presented at the last meeting. She is working on a Parks App, and working on some Arts programs. Tom McCarthy discussed the MOKABE games. This was here around six years ago. In 2016 they will be using the Amphitheater for the Grand Opening ceremonies. It is a Jewish Olympic program for youth. They will also be using Maryville University facilities for the programs. Bill Dowdy asked about the Monarch Trail. Tom McCarthy stated that the pump station is completed. We are adding 10 feet of soil to the back side and still working on getting an easement from the property owner. Tom McCarthy stated that we are in talks with Maryville University to have our softball fields used by their players. Real Madrid Soccer University will be here next year. They bring some Real Madrid Players to the area. Mike Casey asked about the Veterans Honor Park. AEP River Operations has made a large donation. There is also a municipal parks grant of \$525,000.00 that could facilitate the fundraising needs. The total cost is \$1.7 Million. Guy Tilman has been closely involved with the Veterans Honor Park and is working with Monsanto to raise additional funds for the Veterans Honor Park. It will be a wonderful addition for the community if the funds can be raised.

New Business

John Gruender asked about the soccer complex for the valley. Tom McCarthy stated that it is still being worked on. County has approved \$2 million dollars for infrastructure and road improvements. It will go back to council. Things are moving forward. The attorneys are getting involved to get the contracts together.

Guy Tilman discussed an article about the City of St. Charles buying an Island for a Park. He asked about any interest in buying a couple of islands. John Nations stated that Howell Island is owned by Wildwood. The way the Valley came together resulted in the City of Wildwood owning Howell Island.

Old Business

Darcy Capstick discussed Earth Day which will be on April 25, 2015. Darcy Capstick discussed Arbor Day which will be on April 11, 2015. There will be a tree planting. Darcy Capstick discussed the WITS program. The e-cycling will be at the Mall where the movie theater used to be. It was determined that this would be a good space for the event. Darcy Capstick discussed three new Green Team Industries. Darcy Capstick discussed the 18th Recycle Day which was held on November 18, 2014. This event surpassed all previous records. There was an outpouring of girl scouts. They gave out milk weed seeds and depleted all their supplies. Volunteerism has increased which is a good thing.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.