



**Parks & Rec Committee
Meeting Minutes December 12, 2015
FINAL**

Minutes taken by Kimberly Cameron

Attendees:	Michele Keesal	Tricia Whelan	Mike Whelan	Kimberly Cameron	Darcy Capstick
	John Gruender	Don Collins	Gary Stein	Laura Schellenberg	Alan Politte
	John Nations	Norm Handshear	Cindy Lau	Barry Flachsbart	

Staff: Tom McCarthy

Start - 8:15am

1. Approved October/November Meeting Minutes - Approved

2. Mission Statement

– Accept the revised Mission Statement (date as revised/approved)

3. Complete Brainstorming Exercise

- Barry discussed expanding the community garden on Sachs Property (behind Bishop's Post)
- Space is 75 yards X 100 yards, would provide 45 new plots
- WHEN Sachs sells the land down the road, the garden will go away

- Railroad Park Dev. (Levy trail, Edison)
- Family Shelters (Picnic areas, extra pavilions)
- Habitat Restoration
- Enhances Parks
- Art Ideas
- Fitness Activities
- Person to Person Marketing Efforts
- Multi-cultural Arts
- Recycling
- Staycation
- Farmers Market
- HOA Days (push information out to trustees, provide shelters to neighborhoods)

Norm asked about Program Evaluation (Budget, resources, attendance, and success rate)
Tom chimed in as this is a task completed by staff on a regular basis.

Cindy added Bike/Pedestrian Plan to the list

Veterans Honor Park (VHP)

Chesterfield Challenge

- Fitness is "officially" part of this committee

Expand Ambassador Program

John N. asked what the city was doing for kids with disabilities and special needs

Tom discussed:

- Stages (\$75K goes towards that each year)
- Miracle Field – Use continues to grow
- Playground at CAC has a rubberized surface for ease of the disabled kids
- Discussed the process for any child to be able to participate with activities (it's the law) and how that is handled

➤ **Arts Unleashed – focus on kids/adjusts with disabilities**

Mike – Fishing: The City of Des Peres had a Fishing Derby for special needs kids

- Consider workshop opportunities for special needs kids

Tom – The trend is “INCLUSION” to make all events available/accessible to all vs. events for special needs kids in their own category

Michelle – Land Acquisition

Cindy – Waterfront (park development)

- Cities who claim their waterfront have a higher vibrancy
- Improve water fronts along the river
- Property west of big muddy, great bluff line
- Beachy area

Reviewed list from November Retreat and voted to help prepare a list of priorities and focus for the committee.

Farmers Market	- 5 votes
VHP	- 4 votes
Rail Road Development	- 8 votes
Shelters	- 4 votes
River Access	- 4 votes
New Park Development Ideas	- 7 votes
Ambassador Program	- 7 votes

Tom will know more about VHP funds soon, regarding grant request

Cindy suggested breaking down the list by themes

Top Votes

- **New Park Ideas**
- **VHP**
- **Rail Road Development**
- **Shelters River Access**

Kim pointed out the Farmers Market has more votes than 3 of the items on the list. VHP is a project already in progress with support from a dedicated group working on it already. Does this really need to be on the list? Feels repetitious.

Darcy – Consolidate and review list

Alan – A theme is okay, but a few of the ideas require review, research and planning....long term projects

Mike W – The list of ideas has been evolving and new activities are being taken on by the Committee (Fitness, Arts)

- Do we need to evaluate more for the Arts?

Norm agreed, need balance

4. Park Reviews

- I have no notes Tom

5. Staff Report by Tom

Winter Projects

- 33 acres next to the athletic complex, maintenance
- Added a propane tank
- Concrete and trees added into Quad
- Expanding fence for added storage
- F5 & F6 – Additional fields going in along with added fencing and parking

Program Updates

Turkey Trot – 3,024 participants

6. January Meeting is cancelled

February meeting will be 2/13. Mike Whelan will chair the meeting. Starts at 8:15am

7. New Business

- Healthy discussion about Stages, subsidized by city,
- Alan brought up the side walks
- A program that would include some history of Chesterfield or a poem in the sidewalk slab as they get replaced (maintenance)

8. Old Business

Darcy

- Earth day is 4/30 at Chesterfield Mall
- Arbor Day is 4/1
- NWF – Mayors Monarch Butterfly Pledge
- Bagged/tagged pollinator seeds, given to PR&A Committee

Meeting adjourned at 9:27am

Next Meeting: February 13th at 8:15am