

Chesterfield Parks, Recreation and Arts Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2015

Minutes taken by Tricia Whelan

Attendees: Gary Stein, Cindy Lau, Mike Whelan, Tricia Whelan, Eileen Sellers, Alan Politte, Laura Schellenberg, John Gruender, Bill Dowdy, and Norm Handshear (new member)
Staff Liaison: Tom McCarthy; Committee Chair: Michelle Keesal
Council Liaison: Barry Flachsbart

Michelle Keesal called the meeting to order.

Michelle Keesal introduced Norm Handshear, a new Member "At Large". Mr. Handshear lives in Ward II.

Approval of August 8, 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the August 8, 2015 meeting were approved with the following correction:

Page 1: Change word from throw to through.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Michelle Keesal thanked all the volunteers for their support throughout the Spring and Summer. Mike Whelan proposed asking other residents of the City to assist us in volunteering such as asking neighbors or friends of the current members. This will involve more people since we have increased the number of volunteer opportunities over the last 3 years. Michelle Keesal said this could be a liability insurance issue but is a great idea. We do need to think about how to grow our volunteers. We will be adding the Arts Program and will need to think about volunteers for additional art programs. The volunteers need to know what is expected of them. Barry Flachsbart said that no background checks were done on the current members, however, the council did approve the members of this committee. Tom McCarthy said he would check with the legal department regarding non-committee volunteers. We should also probably think about expanding this committee. Michelle Keesal stated that we should have this on the agenda at the retreat.

John Gruender stated that Chesterfield Kiwanis sponsors local Key Clubs and they are looking for additional projects. Eileen Sellers stated that the state requires 20 hours of volunteer work for credit.

Barry Flachsbart stated that maybe we need a whole different type of volunteer that is not a committee member such as a high school age volunteer group. Barry Flachsbart will go to the council regarding the health and wellness program (from previous meeting discussions) and a volunteer program.

Municipal Parks Grant Proposal Update:

Tom McCarthy updated the committee on the Veterans Honor Park. \$481,000.00 has been raised and the City is working on getting a municipal parks grant for around \$525,000.00 which is the maximum. The total project cost is \$1.9 million. The city committed \$500,000.00, the private fundraisers raised \$481,000.00 and the grant is \$525,000.00. It is hopeful that work will start in October and a spring

ribbon cutting will happen in 2017. The goal is to build it in the offseason. The Park can be built in phases. The goal is to raise enough for the whole project.

Events and Program Update

Tom McCarthy stated that the Rivers Edge had won an award from the Riverfront times. Tom McCarthy discussed the Chamber-City combined concert with RockinChair. It was a success and shows that we have a great partnership with the Chamber and introduced the Amphitheater to a whole new group of people. Tom McCarthy stated that Mock of Ages performed on August 29th, 2015. The CFA Pigskin Classic was held on August 22, 2015. Tom McCarthy discussed the Ascension Soccer Tournament. There are 115 teams. The partnership with Ascension is a good one and the contract has been extended through 2019. The Taste of St. Louis was held in September, 2015 and there were approximately 175,000 people. This event drew people from all over the region and was a great success. There was a new live art demonstration and the Art Walk included 30 Artists. There is a plan to get a 7x7 cube of granite/marble and put public art in the park and watch the art as it is being created.

The Pedal the Cause event was held for the first time at the Amphitheater. There were 3,000 riders. It was a great event and all of the funds raised go to research. The City and the Chamber are working on a joint cyclist team for next year. Email Tom McCarthy if anyone is interested or if you know of an interested rider. The goal is to have a group of riders for each ride option. (18 miles, 25 miles, 50 miles, 75 miles, and 100 miles) There was also a virtual rider option where there were 100 spinning cyclists set up at the Amphitheater with an instructor on the stage.

Tom McCarthy informed the committee that there was an article about the Chesterfield Parks in the Missouri Parks and Recreation magazine. Tom McCarthy discussed the Live Art Project that will be held on November 21st at the Chesterfield City Hall. This event will showcase regional artists creating live art. Patrons can bid on the art. All Committee members are invited. There is space for 300 patrons.

Retreat-November 14, 2015

Tom McCarthy and Michelle Keesal discussed the Retreat. It will be held on November 14th at the Parks and Recreation office. The meeting will start at 8:30 and end at 11:30. We will be discussing 4-5 topics. Michelle Keesal was commended for keeping all of us focused and on track. Tom McCarthy emailed the mission statement and bullet points to all members and asked that it be reviewed. Arts will need to be added to the mission statement. Steve Jarvis, Kari Johnson and Jason Baucom will be at our retreat and update us on park operations.

John Gruender asked about the Farmers Market that had been discussed previously. Barry Flachsbart stated that that was part of the health and wellness program that Louise Nation had presented to the committee at a prior meeting. Barry Flachsbart stated that Louise is working on handing the baton to someone else. Once Barry Flachsbart gets to committee of counsel, the Farmers Market is one of the items on the agenda. There was previously a Farmers Market on Long Road. There may be a more viable place for one.

Norm Handshear asked about the process. When the strategy is set, does the committee look at what others cities/municipalities are doing? Tom McCarthy stated that this is taken into consideration and is discussed. This will be part of our retreat agenda. Barry Flachsbart stated that someone on the city staff

should periodically contact other municipalities and see what they are doing so there is limited overlap. The Kirkwood and Soulard programs were discussed.

Park Reviews

Bill Dowdy stated that there is a handicapped spot at the Ice Rink and that is good. Bill Dowdy commented on the speed of the Patrol Volunteers. Tom McCarthy said he would visit with the Chief about that.

Mike Whelan stated that he toured the Rivers Edge Park recently. The Pavilion is now above water. The path and trails were clean. The Parks does power wash the Pavilion and picnic tables but it is hard to remove all the dirt once it has been underwater for a period of time. Gary Stein was at Rivers Edge also. He noted that the trees that had been planted at the grand opening are dead as the flood waters washed them away. Tom McCarthy noted that this was the first time that the water has been that high in several years.

Staff Reports

Tom McCarthy updated the committee on Lisa Bobrzynski, the marketing person for the Parks. She had a baby boy and mother and baby are doing well.

Construction Updates

Tom McCarthy stated that DuraEdge is being installed on D-1, D-3 and D-4. Steps have been added to the boardwalk at Rivers Edge. There is additional concrete going in at the CVAC quad. The practice fields north of the levee have been replanted. Work has been started on F-5 and F-6 fields at the CVAC. There is a planned fence expansion in the Parks Yard.

Program Updates

Andy Grammar/Shell Shock St. Louis will be performing at the Amphitheater on October 30, 2015. There is a Dancing with the Stars ticketed event that is coming up. The Coyote is the newest art piece located at the Eberwein Dog Park. There is an Art Exhibit at City Hall. Also, as mentioned previously, the Live Art Project will be held on November 21st and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

New Business

Tom McCarthy discussed a park tour whereby the committee would tour the parks and provide updates on condition and future needs. Cindy Lau talked about a survey which will be a part of the retreat agenda. Alan Politte stated that Olive/141 near Dierbergs has a contract on it. The City cleaned up the site and it is now sold. A drive-through Starbucks is planned for the site.

Bill Dowdy moved to adjourn which was seconded by John Gruender. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.