

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

Attendance:

Cindy Lau	Michelle Keesal	Council Member Barry Flachsbart
John Gruender	Darcy Capstick	Tom McCarthy
Tricia Whelan	Guy Tilman	Bridget Nations
Gary Stein		

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

Tom McCarthy requested approval of the June 9th 2012 minutes with the following corrections:

The Lacrosse Tournament was cancelled.

The Moonlight Run is set for September 29th at 10:00 p.m.

Fleet Feet is doing the timing for the race.

The minutes were approved as edited.

Michelle Keesal discussed the Tour De Parks. At the last meeting we decided to do it again next year. There were some suggestions as to how to make it better. Tom McCarthy stated that the 25th Anniversary of Chesterfield is in 2013. There are ideas and events being discussed that could compliment the Tour De Parks. Cindy Lau discussed community building. Having a sense of community to care about our Parks and our neighbors is important. Cindy Lau asked if we should add that as another objective. Guy Tilman said that the name Tour De Parks implies that you are going to more than one location. If you had a taste of Chesterfield, it would be a way to build a community. Guy Tilman said you need to identify the budget for each item. Barry Flachsbart said there is a general idea that it was successful so more funding would likely be approved. Maybe food items such as Goodcents, carrots, celery sticks etc, could be added to the event. Gary Stein said that instead of the whole park system that maybe we should focus on three parks. Maybe have an ice cream social. Tom McCarthy said that each month we could do a different park. Maybe we could do a Yappy Hour at the Dog Park and at the Sport Park do a breakfast cookout. The Tour De Parks would have a different amenity use like the Dog Park or a different segment of the trail system. Tom McCarthy talked about Big Shark doing a bike ride. Barry Flachsbart said that some of the businesses would want people to come to their businesses. Guy Tilman said he sees it as two different things; Tour De Parks and then separate events. Barry Flachsbart said that you may get more people involved and have more time commitments involved. Darcy Capstick said at the end of the three to four months, an ultimate prize drawing could occur. Michelle Keesal asked about whether we should still call it Tour De Parks. The committee agreed to the name being the same. Cindy Lau said that it would be a lot of

effort to do it. Tom McCarthy said we needed to come up with a budget. Tom McCarthy suggested a budget of \$3,000.00. Michelle Keesal suggested that we focus on a few events that a business can sponsor. It could be something at a particular Park. Montgomery Bank was interested in doing something at Dierberg Park. We could have water bottles at the Tour De Parks. We could do an email blast to all the potential sponsors. Tom McCarthy made a motion for a \$3,000.00 budget for the Second Annual Tour De Parks. Bridget Nations seconded the motion. All approved. Barry Flachsbart stated that he would report to the council on the Tour De Parks budget. It would be the second annual Tour De Parks and would be expanded. Tricia Whelan volunteered to help with the scavenger hunt. Cindy Lau said she would be glad to spearhead the event for one more year. It was requested that everyone email Cindy Lau with the times we could meet to do planning for the Tour De Parks. Tom McCarthy said we should look at the dates for the Tour De Parks at the next meeting so there is no scheduling conflict. Tom McCarthy said he would have a schedule of events by August or September. Barry Flachsbart suggested that we get an updated list and maps of the various Parks. Tom McCarthy discussed the level of sponsorships for the second annual Tour De Parks. Tom McCarthy suggested that we coordinate with the Chesterfield Chamber and communicate with Libby Tucker. Michelle Keesal confirmed that we are still doing a one shot deal for the Second Annual Tour De Parks with maybe three parks involved.

Michelle Keesal discussed revisiting what our mission is and refocus our efforts on what our mission is. Tom McCarthy made copies of standards so that we can become familiar with them. Tom McCarthy passed around the standards for the Parks called "Park Definitions, Classifications, Standards and Inventory." Steve Jarvis had previously put this information together for the CAPRA program. There are a few updates. We now have a few more picnic tables at the athletic complex. The Eberwein Park is our first "Park- Park". Tom McCarthy reviewed the recreation facilities inventory. How many biking trails do we need, etc? The biking/walking trails going through the athletic complex area have really opened it up to more people. This encompasses everything that is related to Parks and Recreation. It is also the green space and passive areas. Tom McCarthy stated that the baseball tournaments really have helped with the shopping and the economic impact is huge. We just opened two new fields and we are in talks with the Lacrosse people to use the Lacrosse fields more. There is some room for expansion, approximately 33 acres may be available. The Conservation Department and the Audubon Society are currently doing some conservation on the 33 acres. There are some fish there. The Conservation Department is doing a fish study this fall. We are doing a phenomenal job of keeping the fields occupied with baseball, softball and soccer. The whole facility is booked. We are working on improving the grass. Millennium Green put in an irrigation system to keep the trees green. We are still updating the dugouts.

Tom McCarthy discussed Eberwein Park. We reviewed the Dog Tag Addresses and right now we are at 950.

Tom McCarthy discussed a potential land purchase by the City. He stated that behind the St. Louis Premium Outlet Mall Development is 160 acres of ground. It is on the north side of 40. There are two boardwalks that are in good condition. There is a road that is

mulched and a picturesque lake which is wetland by definition. It is public land but not available for use. The trails are roads and it is beautiful. If and when the City obtains this land it would be great for walking trails. Tom McCarthy has talked to Monsanto about a grant for bird rehab. It is a gorgeous and would be a great place for an Eagle Scout to put in a bird viewing station. Once it is approved and it is ours, we can take a tour of it.

Tom McCarthy stated that honeysuckle is being removed at the Conway Cemetery and there are also some picnic tables there. At Railroad Park off the levee trail there are walking areas. It would be a great area where we can do trails. Tom McCarthy said we were working to put in a pedestrian bridge and are working on getting a grant for it.

Barry Flachsbart said that one of the questions is to look at the existing parks and see if we need more pocket parks or do we have enough? The school parks are not all on this document. Ascension is used as a Park. We need to do a complete overlay and compare it to population demographics. This is good information that we can get from our GIS Department. We will have a tour soon to see some of these places. Darcy Capstick said that we should do a green space assessment with overlays to assess green space distribution. We can do surveys of residents. We want to spend our money wisely. Tom McCarthy will look at the old surveys. Gary Stein said that where he lived previously they had markers of where you walked and each had different distances. Tom McCarthy said that we will be doing that as we put the parks online. The signs at Eberwein Park are very nice. We have parks that need to be maintained and some aren't as complete. When we get the major loop completed, the economic impact will be amazing. We have hired an engineer to get the bridge going.

Staff Reports

Tom McCarthy stated that we went out to bid for the barn improvements at Eberwein. Steve Jarvis has put in dog drinking fountains. We have completed the water feature for the small dog area. We are working with the Corp of Engineers and updating the Pond and dredging it. There will be a waterwheel feature between the Barn and the Garden. They took out the honeysuckle and put in native trees. The heat has slowed down a lot of things.

The pool is great. We went to see the new splash pad. We are working on upgrading the surface. We are looking at trying to program the Amphitheater more. Dierbergs will be a sponsor at Corks and Forks. We are estimating there will be 5000 to 7000 in attendance. Darcy Capstick asked about recycling plans at the event. Tom McCarthy said we had recycle bins there. We should be able to single stream recycle at all city places now and to recycle spent food items would be according to our RBM grant. Darcy Capstick will provide Tom with the recycling information. There are standard recycle units and trash units. Darcy Capstick asked about the 160 acres Wetlands Park. What is the timeframe for the purchase? Tom McCarthy stated that he did not have a firm date. Darcy Capstick discussed the CAPRA marker. It might be a good idea to showcase it. Darcy Capstick strongly urged consideration of that and would like to suggest that maybe we could do it

at Forks and Corks. Cindy Lau stated that Logan College is another place with green space. Barry Flachsbart stated that the students at Logan had voted previously not to have a Park. Bridget Nations said that George and Liz Goodman are very active in Chesterfield and it might be a good idea to visit with them about various Park ideas around the Logan College area.

Additional Business

Darcy Capstick said the 16th America Recycles Day Event will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, 2012. It will be at the North Lot of the CVAC from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Girl Scout Troop 1668 is working with Cintas to do more paper recycling.

Michelle Keesal stated that our committee meets once a month. We have fallen off in the number of members that we have. Could there be a different time to meet? Darcy Capstick asked that to sustain the flow of the committee that we need to have a set meeting. It is important to have ad hoc special meetings also. A meeting once a month is good. There are two vacancies in Ward 3 and one vacancy in Ward 1. Barry Flachsbart said that he would work on the vacancy. It was suggested that we look for people willing to participate and let Barry Flachsbart know. Barry Flachsbart stated that Saturday meetings are good for him. It was the consensus of the group to continue meeting on a monthly basis. Tom McCarthy said that we need to work on the vision, goals and plans for the next meeting. Bridget Nations stated that Ascension has a soccer tournament the third and fourth week in August. It is wonderful to see how every inch of parking will be utilized. It is a fun and busy weekend for the valley. Barry Flachsbart said Ascension runs that section of the CVAC and it is better because of their involvement.

Michelle Keesal made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.