

Chesterfield Parks, Recreation and Arts Advisory  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2015

Minutes taken by Tricia Whelan

Attendees: John Gruender, Gary Stein, Guy Tilman, Cindy Lau, Bill Dowdy, Darcy Capstick, Mike Whelan, Tricia Whelan, Eileen Sellers, Don Collins, Alan Politte, Allison Harris, John Nations  
Staff Liaison: Tom McCarthy; Committee Chair: Michelle Keesal

Also in attendance were guests Louise Nation and Donna Brzsnk

Michelle Keesal called the meeting to order.

Approval of March Minutes

The minutes of the March 14, 2015 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

Page 3 Old Business: Missouri Arbor Day and Youth in Science.

Michelle Keesal introduced Louise Nation and Donna Brzsnk who made a presentation about Health Issues in the community and helping to make Chesterfield a healthier place. Tom McCarthy stated that we are adding an adult walk and doing a community survey. A Farmers Market was discussed. John Nations asked how a successful program would look. The Blueszone program was discussed. Several communities are already participating in the Bluezone program. Other ideas were discussed. Michelle Keesal and Tom McCarthy will meet with Louise Nation and Donna Brzsnk to get a better understanding of the health program.

Summer Events Update

Tom McCarthy discussed successful recent events such as the grand opening of the Rivers Edge, the Fishing Derby, Tour De Wellness (500 participants) Real Madrid Soccer (350 kids) Lego Movie, Dirty Muggs Concert (4,000 people). Mike Whelan discussed promoting signups for Friends of the Parks so that information will be received on all events by email. This will help cut down on the amount of paper distributed. Tom McCarthy stated that the City is working on the app for the phone which will also help drive event numbers up. Tom McCarthy discussed the new Aerodium which is a human flying experience. It is located at the CVAC until the end of July, 2015. Tom McCarthy discussed Pickleball and the upcoming movies at the Amphitheater. Three interns are helping out with the various programs this summer.

Volunteer Opportunities

Tricia Whelan updated the committee on the many volunteer opportunities available for the Members. She distributed the volunteer list for signups. Tricia Whelan will email the updated volunteer list to Tom McCarthy.

## Art Program update

Chesterfield Arts took a new direction. They will be teaching Art classes at their new location in Woodchase Plaza. Their new name will be Art Unleashed. The City is working with them on some items. The City will be expanding the Arts. Jason was recently promoted to Arts Director. Sunkanya Moni was also hired as an Artist. She is full time. She has experience with indoor/outdoor Art. She will be working with the Art on Loan program. We will be adding Art to all our Parks. The City recently purchased the Bather which will go by the Pool at Central Park. The City is working with Artists in the area for Art Hangings at the City Hall location including Harry Weber. Also during the Taste of St. Louis the City will be expanding the Art and Wine areas. There will be a photo show and the City will assist in a sculpture contest. In addition, there will be a Concert on July 18<sup>th</sup> with Flaming Pie and Art Unleashed that will benefit the Arts programs. It will be similar to Backstopalooza.

## Review Mission Statement and Committee Objectives

Michelle Keesal stated that we will be reviewing our mission statement and community objectives as Arts are now part of our mission. We have a copy of the mission statement and we need to add Arts and change the name to PRACAC. Between now and the next meeting we will review and add another bullet point in regard to Arts.

Tom McCarthy discussed the Rivers Edge. It has become very popular very quickly. There is a parcel that sits next to it that is owned by an individual who is asking \$1.4 million which is too much. This owner thinks that he can build things there but there are many restrictions. The purchase of the property will be revisited at a much later date if the price is more reasonable.

Darcy Capstick asked about the Railroad Park. Tom McCarthy stated that a grant is coming up this year but it will most likely be used for the Veterans Honor Park. Grants for Railroad Park will be looked at next year.

Tom McCarthy stated that he would get the former mission statement for the Arts which would be helpful to have in formulating our Arts mission statement. We do need a meeting just for the Arts discussion. There is an opportunity to put us in the limelight. Helpful to understand if we have a good mission statement and clear-cut objectives. We can create the correct image and objectives regarding Arts.

Cindy Lau discussed health updates. We should look at each objective. It might be a good time to schedule another retreat.

Tom McCarthy, Michelle Keesal, Louise Nation and Donna Brzsnk will get together to hash out more details on the health issue.

It was discussed getting the High Schools involved in the music offerings of the City.

## Park Reviews

Bill Dowdy stated that he was in 6 parks in 60 days and that the Bike Trail is awesome and the Monarch Trail is fabulous. At the Tour De Wellness there were quite a few people who were new to cycling and they were very happy with it.

Cindy Lau stated that she saw an Eel at the Rivers Edge.

Eileen Sellers stated that the CVAC looks good and they are updating the phone lines for the weather.

John Gruender asked about an Arts Representative.

Mike Whelan discussed the successful fishing activities at Central Park.

#### Staff Report

#### Construction Updates

Tom McCarthy stated that the Rivers Edge is completed. Central Park and CVAC playgrounds now have better surfaces. The CVAC monument sign is completed. The CVAC location sign boards are up. The Pickleball Courts are in at the CVAC. A3 and A4 football fields have now had grass replacement through Frazee mowing. Three additional fields will be lit this Fall with help from Ascension, Chesterfield Football and JB Marine Soccer program. Tom McCarthy provided an update on the Eberwein Park Pond. Tom McCarthy discussed the CVAC fields. They are looking at doing synthetic and natural grass on one field to test its viability; 25% synthetic and 75% real grass. They are now going green as one mower is now a propane mower. They are adding a propane storage tank. Also a security system is being added at the Parks Building.

#### Program Updates

Tom McCarthy discussed the Shoeman Water Project, Mock of Ages, Cyclecross, Full/Half Marathon, Taste of St. Louis, Pedal the Cause, Backstoppalooza which has been added to Trucktober and another Vintage Market Day.

#### New Business

None

#### Old Business

Darcy Capstick discussed the Missouri Arbor Days and the Rivers Edge opening which helped connect our children with nature. The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day was a success. The Republic hauler has added caps and lids and #6 plastics has just been added. Darcy Capstick discussed the Great American Campout program. Registration can be done through the National Wildlife Association. It has expanded and is now the entire summer. It helps us learn more about the great outdoors.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2015.

