

MINUTES
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
February 9, 2013
8:30 a.m.

Attendance:

John Gruender	Tricia Whelan	Michelle Keesal	Bridget Nations
Don Collins	Eileen Sellers	Tom McCarthy	
Gary Stein	Darcy Capstick	Council Member Barry Flachsbart	
Bill Dowdy	Laura Schellenberg	Mike Whelan	
Cindy Lau	Guy Tilman	Kimberly Cameron	

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

Bill Dowdy made a motion to approve the January 12, 2013 minutes. Darcy Capstick seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Cindy Lau asked for an update on the Tour D Parks. Guy Tilman is working on Meditation Park and getting refreshments and light music, or the civic orchestra. Gary Stein said everything was set for Central Park. The caricature artist is on board. The balloonist is in place. Gary is working on the ice cream and has talked to Oberweis. Tom McCarthy stated that the banner/brochure is approved and the information will be in the brochure on Friday. Tricia Whelan updated the committee on Eberwein Park. The dog chair is approved and the artist is creating the design. The kids will have a photo opportunity with the chair and their dogs. The bubble bus is in place. Cindy Lau thanked everyone and requested that the staffing for the Tour D Parks be discussed at the April meeting.

Tom McCarthy updated the committee on the 25th anniversary planning. The decisions will be made soon and will be discussed at the March retreat. The Parks and Recreation Committee will have opportunities to participate.

Michelle Keesal updated the committee on the retreat details. The retreat will be held on March 9, 2013. It will be held at the park offices by the ballparks and will be from 8:00 a.m. to noon. There will be boxed lunches. There will be an overview of the parks department and the goals and objectives for the next year. The national standards such as where facilities are located will be reviewed. The mission statement will also be reviewed. Tom McCarthy will send out an email with the retreat agenda.

Staff Reports

Tom McCarthy stated that the first concert will be May 11, 2013 and will be the civic orchestra. Tom McCarthy updated the committee on the Eberwein Park. They have just finished paving the entrance way to the dog park. The Barn is finished. We have added 8 new garden plots. There has been an 85%-95% return rate on the garden plots and there are people on the waiting list. Tom McCarthy updated the committee on the CVAC progress. They are working on getting bleacher covers at the F Quad. They are getting new signage at CVAC which helps with the

parking. Regarding Central Park, they are working on installing a bridge at the spillway by the amphitheater. This still needs to be approved by the council. They are installing a VIP deck at the amphitheatre. It is near the concession stand. They are improving the signage at the amphitheater. It will be right off the parkway for more visibility. Guy Tilman asked if the Amphitheater was named. Tom McCarthy stated that it is currently the Chesterfield Amphitheater but the council is exploring the naming rights. There is currently nothing on the table. Tom McCarthy stated that there are beautification projects pending approval at the CVAC, such as raised flower beds and plantings. Tom McCarthy is working on the new park behind Taubman. It will be opened up sometime this year after August 2013. It will need to wait until the Taubman Outlet Mall opens which should be the third week of August, 2013. Barry Flachsbart said that the committee has approved these pending items and it should be approved at the next council meeting.

Tom McCarthy discussed other construction items. There is a new section of levee trail near Baxter and Edison that has a sharp curve and a 30 foot drop and no barrier. They are working on the issue with MODOT. The trail is closed on the south side of the highway. Tom McCarthy met with MODOT regarding the west end where they are doing the new bridge. The west end will be closed for a mile for two years for bridge construction. Once the bridge is completed cyclists will be able to go across the river and connect with the Katy Trail. MODOT is working on the flood walls and Centaur Road will be closed for four months. All of these are good improvements for Chesterfield.

Tom McCarthy stated that he was working on the brochure. There will be ultimate Frisbee. St. Louis University Soccer will be using the fields and they are expanding Lacrosse. This is very exciting for the CVAC.

New Business

Bill Dowdy proposed two bicycle rides as follows:

1. A Family ride over approved routes like a Tour D Chesterfield with a BBQ and picnic at the end.
2. A professional ride with approved riders and sponsors and prizes. This would be similar to the cycling event in Staunton.

Tom McCarthy stated that we have a breakfast morning ride already in progress that would be a 3-5 mile ride. Tom McCarthy stated that as we continue to work on the routes, these events will come together. We will do this as we get more bike routes approved and marked. We just recently found out that the west part of the bike path was closing. Tom McCarthy stated that he is working with St. Lukes Hospital on a wellness ride for 35 miles. The ride is being revised due to the paths being closed and they are still working on the route. St. Lukes came to the city with the idea. The date of the ride would be August 18, 2013. Tom McCarthy is also working with Mike Weiss of Big Shark on a bike event, similar to The Grove and the Loop. Mike Weiss has a business that puts on professional bike events throughout the country and internationally. Barry Flachsbart asked if the breakfast ride could be an annual event if it were successful. Tom McCarthy stated that if we had 100 people the first year it would be considered a success. Darcy Capstick made a recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Committee do an annual family

bicycle ride. Michelle Keesal made a motion that we table this motion until after our retreat. We need to develop our mission and focus. We are spending a lot of time doing event planning. Darcy Capstick retracted her recommendation. Darcy Capstick asked that the family bike ride be put on the agenda. Tom McCarthy said we are already doing the breakfast ride and we will try to make it an annual event. Darcy Capstick made a recommendation that the City and the Parks and Recreation staff consider doing an annual bike ride. Michelle Keesal stated that it sounds like we are doing that. Bill Dowdy stated that he liked the idea of an annual bike ride. You get to a bib number, and there would be an entrance fee, you go through the line and they time you similar to the bike ride in Staunton.

Barry Flachsbart stated that it appears the committee agrees that the bike ride can be an annual event. Michelle Keesal stated that if the first one was successful then it could possibly be an annual event. Bill Dowdy will work with Tom McCarthy on the bike plans. Bill Dowdy stated that it appears there is some red tape on getting bike paths and routes completed. Bridget Nations stated that it appears that we are all in agreement and in support of the Parks Department in their bike ride plans. Bill Dowdy discussed the second part of his proposal which was a professional ride. It would have appropriate prizes. Tom McCarthy stated that he is working on this with Big Shark. It would be a professional race with professional riders.

Michelle Keesal asked if there was any additional business. Darcy Capstick provided the committee with an update on Earth Day. It is Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The vendors and entertainment will be at the Central Park Amphitheater. The drive thru recycling will be at the Central Park parking lot. The Festival will feature on-stage performances with numerous vendors selling up-cycled and recycled art and craft items. You will also be able to find information on a variety of topics related to sustaining our environment. There will be a science competition with professional statewide judges. The youth application is on the city's website. They are encouraging youth to reuse their science fair exhibits or create a new one. This is the first time they are adding a science component to the earth day event. Getting youth involved is important. There will be awards given onstage at noon. Also, the operation food search truck will be there.

Darcy Capstick discussed bioethics. Tom McCarthy discussed a barn owl that was saved. Tom McCarthy mentioned that the bald eagles go to practice field S which is very exciting.

Laura Schellenberg discussed the State Conference for Missouri Parks and Recreation. We should participate and really be a part of it. It is important and beneficial. There are sessions and events throughout the day and the sharing of ideas. Tom McCarthy stated that he has gone to NPRA for years. Steve Jarvis, Tom McCarthy and Kari Johnson have attended. This year Kari Johnson is on the accreditation board. Traditionally one person does go and then comes back and trains the others. It is a lot of good information. The event is at Tan Tara this year. It is too late for Tom McCarthy to go this year but it will be looked at next year as it is a wonderful conference.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:00 a.m. by Bill Dowdy with Darcy Capstick seconding the motion.

