

MINUTES
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
August 11, 2012
8:30 a.m.

Attendance:

John Gruender	Tricia Whelan	Michelle Keesal
Don Collins	Eileen Sellers	Tom McCarthy
Gary Stein	Darcy Capstick	Council Member Barry Flachsbart
Bill Dowdy	Laura Schellenberg	

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

Michelle Keesal introduced a potential new member, Steve Koudelis. His email address is skoudelis@gmail.com. He develops software for telephone companies. Michelle asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves.

Michelle Keesal requested approval of the July 14, 2012 minutes. Don Collins seconded the request and the minutes were approved as presented.

Michelle Keesal discussed the Tour D Parks and brought Steve Koudelis up to date on the event to promote the parks. Our goal was to get the people out to the parks and we had a drawing with gift baskets and it was successful. There was a steady flow of people attending the event.

Cindy Lau has offered to chair the event again and Gary Stein offered to co-chair. There is a subcommittee meeting scheduled for 8-25-2012. This subcommittee will meet and decide the direction of the Tour D Parks for 2013.

Tom McCarthy said he was getting the calendar together and we will set a date for the next Tour D Parks event. He stated that we did not spend the budgeted amount last year.

Tom McCarthy passed around the Parks and Recreation mission statement. He stated this was the current mission statement that has been approved. Darcy Capstick stated that we did some brainstorming at the last meeting regarding the mission statement. Michelle Keesal asked that the members take this home and think about it. We will then have a flipchart and write about various ideas and do more brainstorming on our mission at the next meeting. Michelle Keesal said that we should brainstorm and write down ideas both short term and long term. Barry Flachsbart agreed that short and long term goals would be ideal. It was suggested that each member bring three ideas for what the mission of the Parks Department should be going forward. Tom McCarthy will bring media and write the ideas down at the next meeting. This should help the committee move in the direction needed for the future.

Darcy Capstick stated that for the first time our Parks and Recreation Division was nationally accredited. There is an annual renewal which the city plans to continue. Tom McCarthy said that the City of Clayton is also on the table to get reviewed for the Parks Accreditation.

Tom McCarthy updated the committee on the Forks and Corks event. It will be from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be a band line up. There will be local chefs from participating restaurants and local artists from the area who are paired up to do cooking and art. They will have their cooking stations and will not know beforehand what they will have to work with. Tom McCarthy is working with the people who are doing the recycling. There will be a water reclaiming station. The final products will go on display. Tom McCarthy stated there will be a schedule for the workers and volunteers. There will be a kids cooking school and cooking demonstrations on stage. The Veterans Parkway will be closed. There will be a shuttle from the Mall and VIP Parking. There are several sponsors including Shock Top and Grey Eagle. The sponsors will recoup their costs by renting booth space and they get a percentage of the tickets sold. Mardi Gras Inc is going to coordinate the alcohol portion and they will do the tastings. These are all paid. It is a ticketed event. It is a different percentage with Mardi Gras Inc. We are putting up the Banners along the Parkway. Channel 2 and Patch will be there. Tom McCarthy asked that we invite our friends. There will be an email blast a few days before the event. Dogs are allowed at the event. Darcy Capstick congratulated Tom McCarthy on the wonderful sponsors. Tom McCarthy stated that Entertainment St. Louis does the Taste of St. Louis and The Go Marathon. Shock Top is the beverage that Grey Eagle wants to promote. Tom McCarthy stated there would be a 15 minute fireworks show. It will be over the lake. Tom McCarthy stated that the parking tickets would be mailed to the volunteers sometime before the event. Tom McCarthy stated that the restaurants are excited about Forks and Corks. We have Sarah's Cake Shop, Ya Ya's, Gittos, and several others. Our goal is to get ten restaurants. The various artists are working with Chesterfield Arts and they will all have their tents. The road will close Friday night. Darcy Capstick asked about resource capture. Tom McCarthy stated that we would have the recycling bins.

Tom McCarthy talked about the Parks Facilities Standards. We are looking at city maps, Chesterfield Parks, trails, green spaces, public schools, and conservation department land. We will then look at the available property. We will see if we can do a pocket park. We can work with the Great Rivers Council for Open Spaces. We do need to put the information on the table and decide where we need a park. If we were going to do another Dog Park, where would we locate it? We could put in another Dog Park as demand warrants. The National Recreation and Parks Association creates standard which can change. For instance, tennis has declined so there are fewer tennis courts. Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the country. It is 15 years behind soccer. Tom McCarthy suggested a mini retreat possibly two to three hours sometime in January to discuss these issues in-depth. This would be a long term planning session. Michelle Keesal said doing that may help determine our goals. We can do it ourselves or have someone lead us. Tom McCarthy stated that he was asking the committee to provide input for the future direction of the Parks Department.

Tom McCarthy asked if everyone had a copy of the Parks Standards. He asked the committee members to read it. We will review it again once we have the overlays of land available. We will still be bringing the ideas to the next meeting.

Barry Flachsbart stated that there were only a few places to picnic in the area. Tom McCarthy stated that every year we add more picnic tables. We added 12 last year. We need to add 24 this year. Tom McCarthy stated that we need to market the Railroad Park better. It is right behind the maintenance facility. There is a beautiful field with lots of nice trees. The issue is access. We have an engineer working on it and are looking at a potential grant. We are redefining our fields and looking at doing a girls tournament next spring. We are redefining the fields and making them multipurpose so as not to restrict usage. Barry Flachsbart stated that people are still asking about the location of the Amphitheater. Tom McCarthy stated there is a small sign that says "Amphitheater" but it is still hard to find. Tom McCarthy stated that they are looking at a nice sign for the Amphitheater to help people find it. Tom McCarthy stated that he is working on better signage overall. They are getting portable light signs. We currently have three and are borrowing some from Ballwin. You will start seeing better signs. We are trying to make a uniform program for the signage. Darcy Capstick commented on the sign at Eberwein Park. Also, Dierberg Park has a sign. Tom McCarthy stated that we are still putting signs together. There is one at the Pool. Tom McCarthy stated that Tom Shaw and Steve Sachs have been good to work with regarding sign locations. We are definitely working on standardizing all the signs.

Tom McCarthy provided a construction update. There is additional drainage at the CVAC complex. We have a demo to see if it works there. Then we will move it to Eberwein to see if it works there. There have been some issues at Eberwein as we have had a lot of wash out. The Barn rehab project will start next week. There will be structural changes, lighting changes, a gut rehab. We will be getting rid of the exterior and it will look more like it did in its original state. It will not be for public use. There will be a walk through. They will put a trail there and historical drawings and information about the Barn. Dan Collins said it was popular to get married in a Barn. Tom McCarthy said it would not be used for that.

Tom McCarthy stated that the Parks Group is working on 8-12 more dugouts this year. He stated that the Dog Park now has 960 dog tags. The Pool will be starting on the school schedule soon. The pool usage this summer was great. There was an incident last week where a child went in the water and the lifeguard pulled him out and he was blue. The pool managers performed CPR and an ambulance was called. The process worked as it should and the child was saved. The City plans to acknowledge the three men who took care of the child. This will go to the council. Tricia Whelan stated that this might be a good discussion for the upcoming emergency preparedness seminar to be held at Logan College. She will forward the seminar information to Tom McCarthy.

Tom McCarthy stated that the soccer fields look great. The lights are great on the new fields at the west end. Tom McCarthy stated that we will be doing a Yappy Hour at the Dog Park. Veritas is doing entrees and Beer and wine. This event will be held in October, 2012.

Tom McCarthy discussed the fishing data. We did a U.S. Fish and Wildlife review at the Pond Borough by the practice field at the west end. There were lots of Crappie and lots of turtles. They are still a bit small. We will continue to look at fishing potential. We are also working with the Audubon Society by Field 5 and working with the Conservation Department. Next

Spring we plan to open up the lake behind the Amphitheater. The fish need to get larger before we can do a kids fishing event. Tom McCarthy stated that on September 7th, 2012, there will be a major ticketed event. We are working with a group to bring Kenny Loggins to the Amphitheater. This will be a paid event. The city is not putting it on. From previous research in Ohio and Georgia, it took five years to get profitable. As you build up the venue and more and more people come it helps the amphitheater. We are working with multiple booking agents to book events at the Amphitheater. It is about a five year process to get to that point where it is profitable. There are two main entrances and these will be gated off since it is a ticketed event. There will be temporary fencing and security and our police department and our staff will work the event. They will do concessions. Michelle Keesal stated that there is additional information on the website if needed.

Bill Dowdy stated that he talked to Brian McGownd and that Edison Road will be stripped all the way down for markings only. It will be done by the end of September. It will be all the way down by the Spirit of St. Louis road. This will all be done during the month of September, 2012.

Darcy Capstick stated that she will be an EDSET Team Member for PRCAC. It will be held at the 22nd Annual Chesterfield Earth Day Event, Saturday, April 27th, 2013. Darcy Capstick discussed the "Recycle Your Old Science Fair Projects". It will be held at City Hall. There will be judging criteria. The initial flier regarding the event is here and it will get families and their children involved. Darcy Capstick informed the committee that Girl Scout Troop 2534 received their Silver Award for providing the native flora for Butterfly Park at Eberwein Park. Darcy Capstick wanted to thank Tom McCarthy for talking to Harry Cohen of Blue Skies Recycling regarding Forks and Corks.

Michelle Keesal made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.