

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, was called to order by Chairwoman Diane Duren at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

Roll Call:

Present were: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Ms. Susie Buffett, Mr. Ben Gray, Mr. Tom Kelley, and Mr. Jay Noddle participated by telephone.

As a reminder, during the continuing pandemic, both the City and State had waived applicability of the ‘public meeting’ requirements that would otherwise apply, and therefore all Board members who were attending the meeting by telephone were eligible to participate.

Proof of Publication:

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on April 5, 2023, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on April 5, 2023.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of the March 16, 2023, MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon, along with Mayor Jean Stothert, participated in a tour of Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing. Utilization by guests at Gene Leahy Mall only confirms how special The RiverFront project is, and the community eagerly awaits reopening of the remaining two parks later this summer.

There have been numerous meetings involving MECA regarding the vehicle maintenance facility for the Streetcar project. The Board will be kept apprised of all developments.

Other Business:

Park Update

Ms. Katie Bassett stated that spring is in the air at The RiverFront as tens of thousands of guests have visited Gene Leahy Park already this year. Ms. Bassett recognized the operation and event teams for their hard work and dedication in preparing the park for activation.

This month, some favorite outdoor activities return to the park along with a few new events that guarantee family fun.

Construction is moving along at Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing as the parks are getting closer to completion.

Riverfront Drive and the new Douglas Street extension will be opened this Friday, which will allow southern public access to the parking lots and the west half of Lewis & Clark Landing.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported that there have been several opportunities for public outreach over the past couple weeks, including both important construction updates and upcoming, significant milestones achieved.

Early last week, the public notification process began for the temporary closure of the MLK Jr. Bridge, which connects with the CHI Health Center Omaha Plaza. The bridge is utilized by runners, walkers and cyclists as a connection between downtown Omaha and the riverfront trail system. Along with traditional and social media pushes, individual conversations with some impacted stakeholders were conducted. This closure began on Monday and will conclude on Friday.

MECA announced last week that Riverfront Drive and a new extension of Douglas Street will reopen to two-way traffic beginning this Friday, April 14. Traditional media published this information late last week, and social media outreach will be continued in the days ahead to circulate this information. Press materials have emphasized that the Douglas Street extension will impact how commuters access Riverfront Drive from the south, while also emphasizing that continued precaution is required due to ongoing construction activities. Similarly, the public is being continually reminded that there is still no public access to the park space within Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing until later this year.

Local media will be invited on April 13 to tour updated progress within those two parks for the first time in about six months. Full participation is anticipated in this tour, which will be a helpful resource for showing the community how Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing continue to progress.

Earlier this month, a monthly programming press release was sent out promoting all of the events organized by The RiverFront's event staff, which are numerous.

The RiverFront will announce that it will be the recipient of an exciting tourism award. More information on that is to come soon, along with a pending press release and a widespread promotion campaign.

Media monitoring numbers from February have been received, where data shows The RiverFront was mentioned 97 times reaching 20.6 million people through a variety of stories and publications, with a total publicity value of \$191 thousand. Some notable pickup included multiple stories in the *Omaha World-Herald* about the Kiewit Luminarium's impending grand opening (reaching about 9 million people with those stories alone) and articles about The RiverFront picked up in the *Pioneer Press* (serving Minneapolis) last month. A lot of syndication is continuing in the western half of the state, too.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there is one contract requiring approval.

Birdair, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC and Birdair, Inc. for the purchase of architectural umbrellas for the MLK Bridge as a part of The RiverFront, as more specifically set out on the attached summary, is hereby approved, and Roger Dixon as President/CEO is authorized to execute the Agreement following its finalization in a form reasonably approved by counsel.

Chairwoman Duren invited public and Board comment and asked for a motion.

Moved by Ms. Buffett seconded by Mr. Gray.

Motion carried: 5-0

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 1:06 p.m. and invited a Motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gray seconded by Mr. Kelley.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment 1:06 p.m.