

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JUNE 7, 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 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Proof of Publication:**

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on May 31, 2023, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on May 31, 2023.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

Motion carried: 5-0.

**President/CEO Report:**

Mr. Roger Dixon participated in announcement of the return of the two-day Maha Music Festival to the renovated Heartland of America Park at The RiverFront. The 16th annual festival will be held July 26 and 27, 2024.

**Other Business:**

**Park Update**

Ms. Katie Bassett stated that Gene Leahy Mall is just a few weeks away from the anniversary of its reopening. Attendance at the park is quickly approaching one million visitors. The entire team has done an outstanding job to deliver a well-maintained, clean, safe and highly activated park.

The RiverFront has officially announced a reopening date of Friday, August 18 for Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing. The design and construction teams are working diligently to quickly to put finishing touches on everything. Installation of sod, artificial turf, bleachers, benches, plants and a few more trees will continue in the next few weeks.

Chairwoman Duren inquired about what is being done to discourage skateboarding in areas for pedestrians. Ms. Bassett responded that security is reminding skateboarders/roller bladers and bikers which areas are designated for their use and the need to stay clear of pedestrian right of way areas.

## **Public Relations Update**

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported that the biggest news MECA has shared recently is the August 18 reopening date for Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing. The press release outlined the grand opening weekend events for these two parks, which will focus on showcasing and elevating our local program partners who will play an important role in activating The RiverFront all year long.

Maha announced that the music festival will move down to Heartland of America Park in 2024. Along with a press conference near the east end of Gene Leahy Mall, organizers also worked with The RiverFront's programming team to facilitate a pop-up live music event to celebrate the news.

Last month in Gene Leahy Mall, the City of Omaha invited representatives of a region in France (Isigny-Omaha Intercom) to sign a formal Sister Cities Program Agreement, with the park serving as backdrop for a press conference followed by the signing ceremony. About 40 people and media were in attendance.

Public outreach continues through weekly email blasts with updates on programming, on social media and in-person presentations.

Upon completion of the Men's College World Series, and all the programming that is planned for Gene Leahy Mall this month, Ms. Engdahl will explore dates in July and/or August for another media tour to help continue building excitement for the return of Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing.

Chairwoman Duren mentioned an article in *Travel and Leisure* magazine about 20 cities in the United States that fly beneath the radar, noting that Omaha should be on that list. Ms. Engdahl responded that The RiverFront was featured for best riverfront revitalization, but it couldn't hurt to reach out. Also, *Midwest Living* has requested pictures of the activation of the playground and programming for Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing for their magazine.

## **Contract Approvals:**

Chairwoman Duren indicated there is one contract requiring approval.

### **Ice Rink Events**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC and Ice Rink Events to provide skate rink operator services at 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.

Mr. Noddle asked about this company. Ms. Bassett responded that they operate skate rinks throughout the country including the Rink at Rockefeller Center in New York, Maggie Daley ice skating ribbon in Chicago and many others. Mr. Dixon added that they have a presence in Omaha at UNMC and also provided the practice rink for the USA Figure Skating Championship MECA hosted.

Moved by Ms. Buffett seconded by Mr. Gray.

Motion carried: 5-0

**Next Board Meeting**

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

**Adjournment**

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 9:09 a.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 9:09 a.m.