

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 17, 2024**

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 17, 2024.

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 April 10, 2024, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on April 10, 2024.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2024, MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon stated that the warmer weather has led to some unwanted activities in the park with larger groups of pre-teens. MECA is meeting with the City of Omaha and the Omaha Police Department (OPD) to discuss possible solutions to quickly address the problem before it gets out of hand.

Other Business:

Park Update

Ms. Bassett stated The RiverFront, specifically Gene Leahy Mall, continues to be challenged with juvenile disturbances. There are groups of 200 to 300 kids in the 11th & Farnam Street area and around the Performance Pavilion. The park has seen some small successes with closing for 30 minutes to disperse crowds and then reopening. Ms. Bassett has met with Omaha 360 and YouTurn in an attempt to find creative solutions. Both groups have been at the park the last two weekends to observe what groups of kids are in the park and formulating a plan. In the meantime, security numbers and staffing are being evaluated. The Omaha Police Department and 402 Protection have been outstanding partners constantly trying new things, connecting with the kids on a personal level and doing their best to ensure it is a safe and enjoyable park space.

Spring cleanup continues on all 72 acres. Lanoha has started to replace dead trees covered through warranty in Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing as well as perform some seeding and restoration on the native prairie planting areas.

The events team has put on some great events including the 'Egg-Cellent' Adventure prior to Easter, programming with Kiewit Luminarium around the solar eclipse, and last weekend's

'FidoFest Barket' (dog market). The team has done an outstanding job continuing in making The RiverFront an activated space where visitors can enjoy free programming in addition to the beautiful permanent amenities.

Approximately 110,000 visitors have been welcomed to The RiverFront since the last Board meeting, and over 455,000 visitors since the beginning of the year. These estimates are conservative but put the parks on track to welcome two million visitors in 2024.

The Greenhouse office renovations continue to move forward with completion anticipated in August.

Construction will begin on the pickleball courts after the Corp of Engineers review and approve those plans.

Mr. Kelley inquired if these disturbances are having any material fiscal impact on park operations. Ms. Bassett responded that yes, there will be significant increased security costs.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Engdahl stated that with the return of warmer weather, communication endeavors have predominantly prioritized the promotion of events and activations, made possible by the ongoing efforts of the programming team. This month, press efforts have been structured into bi-monthly releases; however, it is anticipated that beginning in May, the necessity for weekly press releases may arise to adequately acknowledge the multitude of events within the park. These efforts translated into media coverage of The RiverFront's solar eclipse party, FidoFest last weekend, and the upcoming Earth Day celebration over the past month.

Tour requests for The RiverFront had experienced a lull until recently when several employees of the Nebraska Tourism Commission ventured to Omaha to explore the park and experience its amenities. Additionally, towards the end of the month, Visit Omaha will facilitate visits from five or six social media influencers to The RiverFront, and MECA eagerly anticipates showcasing everything The RiverFront has to offer.

Given that access to public art is a point of pride for The RiverFront, earlier this month, Ms. Bassett participated in an interview with *Sculpture Magazine*, contributing a comprehensive piece on both the permanent and rotating art installations throughout The RiverFront. This publication boasts a readership of approximately 37,000 individuals and enjoys distribution in over 50 countries, thereby commanding an international audience.

Lastly, Ms. Engdahl has been working with the Omaha Police Department to co-author a press release reminding the community of items such as relevant management information, mentioning that juveniles should not be left unattended, and that private security remains in the park 24/7, with increases during peak hours. MECA will support their messaging and hope this stands to serve as a helpful community reminder.

Contract Approvals:

Chairwoman Duren indicated there are no contracts requiring approval.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 1:11 p.m. and invited a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gray seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment 1:11 p.m.