

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MAY 16, 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 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

**Roll Call:**

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

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 May 9, 2023, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on May 9, 2023.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2023, MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0.

**President/CEO Report:**

Mr. Roger Dixon stated that significant development can be seen at Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing and deferred to Ms. Katie Bassett to provide a progress report for The RiverFront.

**Other Business:**

**Park Update**

Ms. Katie Bassett stated that attendance continues to be high at Gene Leahy Mall. All of the plants and trees are turning green and seem to be thriving. The RiverFront has seen an influx of children on field trips enjoying all the facilities the park has to offer. In addition to human visitors, the first set of ducklings hatched on Sunday, which are a point of attraction for many people.

The events and programming teams continue to provide activation within the park, most recently including a glass blowing demonstration by Hot Shops and a couple of 5k races. The warmer weather has also brought the return of the Sunday morning Leahy Mall Yacht Club.

Construction is progressing at Heartland of America Park and Lewis & Clark Landing, with both parks scheduled to open later this summer.

**Public Relations Update**

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl reported that in mid-April, MECA enjoyed coverage from local media outlets who participated in an updated tour of Lewis & Clark Landing and Heartland of America Park. The significant progress was apparent since the last walk-through in the fall, where many of the permanent amenities, plants and trees could be showcased in a variety of stories. Multiple articles in the *Omaha World-Herald* listed some of the many features planned for each park, and even dove into deeper perspective regarding efforts to encourage the community to “return to the river” park. Two of these articles were even featured in the High Line Network’s e-newsletter earlier this month, where fellow members around the country could appreciate and follow the progress.

Also, earlier this month, MECA officially announced a jam-packed holiday weekend of programming for the Fourth of July, featuring the return of the UNO Summer Musical Theatre Academy with a live performance of Footloose on July 2nd, along with the Omaha Symphony Independence Day Celebration with fireworks on July 4th. Along with these headlining events, a full calendar of events was included that many local affiliates added to their own website for community planning purposes.

In an attempt to stay accessible to various groups, The RiverFront enjoyed several opportunities for in-person presentations over the past month, one of which included the City of Omaha Human Rights and Relations Board that occurred earlier today.

Additionally, Gene Leahy Mall at The RiverFront was officially announced as Best Attraction for the 2023 Omaha Metro Tourism Awards. Along with receipt of this award, the park will be featured on billboards and in ad campaigns throughout the city.

Media monitoring numbers from April shows The RiverFront was mentioned 190 times reaching 112 million people through a variety of stories and publications, which is a total publicity value of about \$1 million. Some notable pickup included multiple stories in the *Omaha World-Herald* about the Kiewit Luminarium’s grand opening and the extended park tour just days before. The RiverFront enjoyed syndication in *Yahoo! News* last month, and having those articles share with the *High Line Network’s* national audience will notably improve the reach as well.

#### **Contract Approvals:**

Chairwoman Duren indicated there is one contract requiring approval.

#### **Platinum Pools**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement between MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC and Platinum Pools for pool chemicals to be used for the Cascades in Gene Leahy Mall 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.

Moved by Ms. Buffett seconded by Mr. Gray.

Motion carried: 5-0

### **Contracts Recently Approved**

MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC management has awarded bids for The RiverFront to J&M Displays for the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display, and an engineering and design services amendment to the HDR Engineering Agreement.

The Construction Manager, Kiewit Infrastructure Company (KIC), was awarded the bid for sanitary sewer replacement at Lewis & Clark Landing.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

### **Adjournment**

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 2:09 p.m. and invited a Motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gray seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment 2:09 p.m.