

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 16, 2025**

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, April 16, 2025.

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 9, 2025, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on April 9, 2025.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Buffett moved for approval of the minutes of March 11, 2025, MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Gray.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon deferred to Ms. Bassett for an update on The RiverFront.

Other Business:

Park Update

Ms. Bassett announced that construction has officially begun on the pickleball courts located north of the Luminarium. With most of the necessary materials already on hand, the project is expected to move quickly. The courts are slated for completion and public opening later this summer.

The Operations Team is actively engaged in spring maintenance activities, including plant cutbacks, mulching, irrigation, and power washing of water features. Efforts are also underway to de-winterize the Heartland of America Park Fountain, as well as the MUD Fountain and Waterfall. These features are expected to be fully operational by the end of next week.

The Events and Programming Team has unveiled the 2025 event calendar, featuring hundreds of free public events throughout The RiverFront. While the lineup includes a variety of exciting new additions, many fan favorites are also making a return.

The RiverFront continues to earn recognition and accolades. Most recently, the Discovery Playground at Lewis & Clark Landing was voted one of the Top Ten Public Playgrounds in the United States by USA Today readers. Competing against 20 other playgrounds nationwide, the Discovery Playground proudly secured fifth place.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Engdahl noted consistently strong public interest in The RiverFront. The monthly press release, which highlights upcoming events and programming, has generated early media coverage and attracted attention from outlets planning future coverage, especially during Easter weekend, thanks to the wide range of activities coordinated by The RiverFront team and programming partners.

This week, media connections were utilized to secure advance coverage for Maha. Although the stories will run closer to the event, the timing is ideal to spotlight the lineup and provide the park's partner with a platform to share key "know before you go" information to help the public prepare. There's a strong sense of excitement surrounding Maha's return to downtown Omaha.

The RiverFront continues to be a major point of civic pride and discussion. With total attendance reaching approximately 5 million by the end of 2024, the park was highlighted in Mayor Stothert's State of the City address in late March. It was mentioned alongside the CHI Health Center Omaha convention center expansion, emphasizing MECA's significant role in driving growth and activity within the city.

Today, The RiverFront is partnering with Omaha Public Schools to debut a temporary installation in Gene Leahy Mall—an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) designed and built by students from Benson High School's Career Academy. Media are invited to view the project, meet the students, and learn more about their work. This initiative not only sparks important conversations around housing solutions but also gives students a unique opportunity to take ownership of a public space and proudly showcase their skills and accomplishments.

Media monitoring results from the first quarter of 2025 were outstanding, with an estimated national reach of 10.5 million people across traditional and social media platforms. Coverage from outlets such as the *Omaha World-Herald* and KETV accounted for approximately 5 million of that total. The majority of stories focused on park activations and programming, which continue to generate strong public interest and foster positive sentiment surrounding The RiverFront.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Duren stated the time was 9:05 a.m. and invited a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kelley seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment 9:05 a.m.