

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 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 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 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 September 10, 2025, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on September 10, 2025.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of July 22, 2025, MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Buffett.

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 reported that since the last meeting, the highly anticipated pickleball courts at Lewis & Clark Landing have officially opened for public play. The courts have been in daily use by many pickleball enthusiasts. With this addition, only one final element of The RiverFront project remains under construction—the flood-fighting infrastructure located under the I-480 Bridge, south of the Discovery Playground.

Over the past two months, Heartland of America Park successfully hosted two large, ticketed events for the first time: the MAHA Festival and the Tacos & Tequila Festival. These events attracted approximately 6,000 and 8,000 attendees respectively, and both were very well received.

This past weekend, Gene Leahy Mall was home to The RiverFront's annual One Community Culture Festival. Presented in partnership with the Omaha Symphony and the Nebraska Chinese Association, the festival highlights Omaha's diversity through performances, dance, vendors, and community services. This signature, self-produced event has become a community favorite.

Additionally, five sculptures in the Gene Leahy Mall Sculpture Garden are currently being replaced. In partnership with KANEKO and the International Sculpture Center, a panel of jurors selected new family-friendly, weather-resistant, and durable public artworks. Installation is underway along five existing paths, with an opening celebration scheduled for October 3.

Public Relations Update:

Grace Safford reported that The RiverFront continues to generate a steady stream of media attention. In August, the pickleball courts were completed and received coverage from local outlets including WOWT and the *Omaha World-Herald*. That same month, the new Monarch butterfly migration information signs at the Discovery Playground were featured in KMTV's *Mark in the Park* segment.

Already in September, local media returned to capture the removal of the final sculpture from the Gene Leahy Mall Sculpture Garden, along with the installation of the first piece in the newest rotation. The consistent attention from area media highlights the community's ongoing excitement and engagement with The RiverFront as it continues to grow and evolve.

Recently Approved Contracts:

MECA has recently awarded the following contracts:

- Omaha Symphony – One Community Festival, Sounds of the City Performance

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Duren stated the time was 1:08 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 1:08 p.m.