

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2026**

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 Thursday, April 16, 2026.

**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, 2026, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on April 9, 2026.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Gray moved for approval of the minutes of the March 18, 2026, MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Buffett. Mr. Noddle abstained from voting.

Motion carried: 4-0.

**President/CEO Report:**

Mr. Adam Straight reported that MECA is entering one of its busiest times of the year, which Ms. Katie Bassett will address in more detail. He took a moment to recognize the team for their outstanding work navigating recent weather challenges, noting that rapid shifts between all four seasons in a single week (something not uncommon in Omaha) can be both taxing and frustrating. He expressed his appreciation to the entire team for their continued dedication.

Mr. Straight also noted that The RiverFront has recently received national recognition as one of the top urban parks in the country and deferred to Ms. Bassett to provide additional details during her report.

**Other Business:**

**Park Update:**

Ms. Katie Bassett reported that the team has been hard at work on spring preparations, including landscaping efforts and gearing up for a busy event season.

USA Today's 10BEST Public Playgrounds rankings were announced, with the Discovery Playground at Lewis & Clark Landing earning fifth place. The RiverFront was honored to be recognized among the top playgrounds in the country, highlighting not only its design but also the ongoing maintenance that makes it a favorite destination.

Ms. Bassett noted that several members of The RiverFront team attended the YP Summit at the end of March, providing a valuable opportunity for team building, networking, and fostering enthusiasm for Omaha and the downtown area.

The RiverFront has welcomed one million visitors to the park so far this year and is on track to exceed ten million visitors annually. Attendance continues to increase significantly during favorable weather conditions, reinforcing The RiverFront's role as a central gathering place for the community.

With warmer weather approaching, Ms. Bassett emphasized the continued focus on safety and security. The team is implementing regular safety protocols, ensuring pedestrian safety, maintaining full camera functionality, and reinforcing a monthly safety focus. The team continues to work collaboratively with their security provider to ensure The RiverFront remains a safe and welcoming environment for all visitors.

### **Public Relations Update:**

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl shared that from national rankings to neighborhood calendars, The RiverFront is showing up in all the right places this month.

Lewis & Clark Landing's Discovery Playground was once again named to USA TODAY's 10BEST list, landing at number five for the Best Public Playground in the country. This is a nationally competitive ranking, and placing for a second consecutive year speaks to the quality of the space and its reputation well beyond Omaha. For context, USA TODAY draws roughly 90 to 100 million site-visits per month and a placement like this carries third-party credibility beyond what paid advertising could achieve. Local media picked it up across both broadcast and digital platforms, generating additional earned media opportunities and recognition here at home.

Plans are progressing for the KETV live broadcast of The RiverFront's Independence Day Celebration, which will help the park's signature event reach even more and new audiences.

MECA's monthly press release cadence continues to pay off. Consistent media pickup is the result of sustained relationship-building with local journalists and editors, showing up reliably month after month so that when something lands in their inbox, they already know who we are and trust what we're sending. That groundwork is what got Eggcellent Adventure and The Amateurs Putt Putt event in front of broadcast audiences beyond our own channels. Along with traditional media, park events are regularly appearing on local community calendars and social media groups, proof that The RiverFront isn't just a destination that people visit, but one they champion, too.

National recognition drives credibility. Local media coverage drives awareness. Community goodwill drives foot traffic. It's the result of deliberate, consistent work by the park team, which MECA is fortunate to celebrate every month.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board of Directors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

**Adjournment**

Chairwoman Duren stated the time was 1:10 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 1:10 p.m.