

**MINUTES OF THE MECA TRI-PARK COMPLEX, LLC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2019**

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 8:30 a.m. on August 15, 2019, in the MECA Board Room at CHI Health Center Omaha, 455 N. 10th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairwoman Diane Duren, Ms. Susie Buffett, Mr. Tom Kelley, Ms. Dana Washington, and Mr. Jay Noddle.

Proof of Publication:

Notice of the meeting was published in *The Daily Record* on August 8, 2019, and in the *Omaha World-Herald* on August 8, 2019.

A copy of the Open Meetings Law was posted on the table near the side entrance to the MECA Board Room.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Washington moved for approval of the minutes of the July 16, 2019, MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Buffett.

Motion carried: 5-0.

President/CEO Report:

Mr. Roger Dixon stated that work continues to move forward on the Tri-Parks with meetings occurring nearly daily.

Other Business:

Parks Update

Ms. Katie Bassett presented time lapse photos so the Board could review the demolition status of the Gene Leahy Mall. The side by side comparisons range from June to August 14.

The demolition and grading is progressing very well within Gene Leahy Mall. Pink Grading has implemented a massive effort in bringing in tons of truckloads of dirt. The crew worked nearly six weeks straight from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday bringing in dirt to fill the one block area between 13th and 14th Streets.

Work has begun for the stabilization and removal of the pump house that was previously utilized for Gene Leahy Mall near 13th and Farnam Streets.

Several large structures were removed from Gene Leahy Mall in the last two months. The first was the iconic orange space frame that was located on the corner of 14th and Farnam Streets. This has been relocated to the Millwork Commons District where they will use it for a future development. The pedestrian bridge that ran through the middle of Gene Leahy Mall has also been removed.

Finally, the pedestrian bridge that previously connected Gene Leahy Mall to Heartland of America Park has been removed. The closure of 8th Street allowed crews to take the bridge down and tear up the street. Efforts are being made to reconnect the utilities and repave the street. This will need to be completed by the end of September to allow for the bus route.

Public Relations Update

Ms. Kristyna Engdahl stated that last month MECA offered a story to local media regarding the recycling and reuse of materials from the Gene Leahy Mall at other parks around the City of Omaha. Ms. Engdahl coordinated with a sustainability expert from HDR, along with City Parks Director Brook Bench which resulted in 54 news stories, all of which provided positive PR for the project, and illustrated MECA's commitment to responsible use of City resources.

With that story alone, it's estimated 444-million people were reached for a publicity value of \$257-million, that's largely in thanks to the internet and interest of national publications such as Yahoo Business. The local TV audience was an estimated 320-thousand people, for a publicity value of roughly \$25,000.

Following that story, a local woman sent a letter to the *Omaha World Herald* editor publicly thanking the City for the project's salvage efforts and expressing appreciation for our stewardship.

There was also an article in the *Omaha World Herald* regarding the amount of dirt it will require to fill in the sunken Gene Leahy Mall; for reference, it's about 93-thousand cubic yards or 93-hundred dump truck loads.

In July, MECA issued the second Riverfront Revitalization Project email newsletter which focused largely on those sustainability efforts and communicated important road closure information with the interested public. The newsletter currently has an approximate 75-percent open rate.

With the closure of 8th Street between Douglas and Farnam Streets, MECA has increased efforts to share alternative access information for Lot A which will be vitally important upon Creighton University's Men's Basketball season. Lot A can still be reached by routes via Capitol Ave and Riverfront Drive.

MECA continues to update the Gene Leahy Mall progress camera on the Riverfront's website and consistently refers the public to this website to find more information, or to direct contact for additional questions.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the MECA Board Room.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Duren stated the time is 8:39 a.m. and invited a Motion to adjourn. A Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kelley seconded by Mr. Noddle.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Adjournment 8:40 a.m.