

METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
104 United Drive, Collinsville, Illinois
Tuesday August 12, 2008

I. Call to Order President Gene Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II Attendance Roll call

Present were: Harold Byers, Madison County
Jerry Kane, Madison County
Gene Peters, Madison County
Paul Evans, St. Clair County in at 7:02 p.m.
Pamela Hogan, St. Clair County
Earl McDowell, St. Clair County

Mike Buehlhorn, Executive Director
Bryan Werner, Planner
Rene' St. Peters, Administrative Assistant

Bill Baudendistel, Juneau Associates
Paul Homann, TWM, Inc.
Ed Szewczyk, Attorney in at 7:02 p.m.

Guests were: Scott Lively, Ganim, Meder, Childers & Hoering, P.C.

III. Approval of Minutes

a) Director Hogan made a motion, seconded by Director McDowell to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2008 regular meeting as presented.

Voice call vote

5 Ayes No Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

IV. Consent Agenda

Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve the consent agenda items a thru d as presented on pages 8-32.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Absent
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

5 Ayes No Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

V. Finance

a) Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to approve the payments and claims for July 2008 MEPRD.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye

Gene Peters Aye Earl McDowell Aye

All Ayes No Nays No Absent Motion Carried

b) Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to approve the payments and claims for July 2008 MMMP as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

All Ayes No Nays No Absent Motion Carried

c) Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Kane to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to transfer \$300,000.00 from the Illinois Funds checking account to the Bank of Edwardsville money market checking account for District business purposes.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

All Ayes No Nays No Absent Motion Carried

Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Kane to approve the transfer of \$50,000.00 from the Illinois Funds prime interest account to the Bank of Edwardsville money market checking account for MMMP operational purposes.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

All Ayes No Nays No Absent Motion Carried

VI. Executive Director's Staff Report

Executive Director Buehlhorn added that there are some problems with the electronic equipment with the lighting for the fountain, reviewing options this Thursday, August 14.

Director McDowell asked about a completion date for the Overlook. Executive Director Buehlhorn stated that we would like to say late September. He also wants to make sure all is done before we set a date for a dedication.

President Peters inquired about the percentages on the Illinois Funds accounts. Executive Director Buehlhorn explained that the rates are a daily rate and once you need it to be collateralized you lose a percentage. Director Kane explained that amounts up to \$100,000.00 do not need to be collateralized. Executive Director Buehlhorn suggested that we take several investments of \$100,000.00 and when the interest hits we roll the interest amount to another account. Director Byers suggested that we investigate the idea of changing our investments and to report back with suggestions for the next meeting.

Planner Bryan Werner presented a mock up sign for projects we have funded and explained that he has found a few sign making companies that have locked in a price for one year. It seems to be an issue with grant recipients regarding the signage for the completed projects. They expect MEPRD to supply the sign just like IDNR does for its projects. Director Kane noted that the signs from IDNR are a generic sign and in turn the MEPRD sign is more specific to each project. This would also make all the projects funded by MEPRD have a similar looking sign. It was suggested to make the signs out of steel not aluminum. Director Evans asked what the percentage was of negative feedback about the signs and Planner Bryan Werner explained that about half have had issues and very few have complained to the point to argue about MEPRD not supplying signs. President Peters asked for those individuals that are reluctant to do the sign, if it should come out of their grant. Planner Bryan Werner suggested we hold payment; due to the requirement per the contract that a sign is put up. Director Hogan asked if MEPRD would be supplying grantees the name of the companies or if Planner Werner would do the work. Planner Werner plans on just providing each grantee with the names of the companies they can go to and receive the signs and the discount.

VII. Old Business

No old business to discuss

VIII. New Business

a) SWIC Reimbursement Request

Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to approve the Planners recommendation to reimburse Southwestern Illinois College a total of \$100,000.00 for completion of their project titled: the Dr. Tom Amlung Nature Trail per resolution 03-03.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

All Ayes No Nays No Absent Motion Carried

b) St. Clair County Transit District Reimbursement Request

Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to approve the Planners recommendation to reimburse St. Clair County Transit District a total of \$53,500.00 for completion of their project titled: the Dr. Tom Amlung Nature Trail per resolution 05-12.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

All Ayes No Nays No Absent Motion Carried

Director Kane asked why the price was so high for a mile bikeway path and Engineer Bill Baudendistel explained that structures were built and there was work on the MetroLink bridge.

c) Recommended software updates

Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve the Planner Bryan Werner's recommendation to upgrade computer software programs.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

All Ayes No Nays No Absent Motion Carried

d) Report from District Engineers

Engineer Bill Baudendistel added that in reference to Eagle Points Trail there was a meeting with the Corp of Engineers and they suggested for not only the Eagle Points Trail but for future projects on Chouteau Island the idea of entering into a challenge cost share program with the Corp of Engineers. Engineer Bill Baudendistel does not have all the details on what the Corp will provide; they are putting together a memorandum of agreement and it should be available by the next MEPRD board meeting. What we do know is that MEPRD will be doing an easement for the trails. The easement will be broke into three different tracks. The first track will be the southern portion, which will go from the parking lot just south of the canal bridge to the very southern end. The second track will be on the very north end; which is a project that hopefully will be funded thru IDNR, and the center tract connects those two. If we just stay with the easements the Corp could not offer to provide other facilities or other help to the projects. However, it is Bill's understanding with the cost share program that they can not only provide physical things like signage, observation posts and things along that line but they can allow you to use their contracting ability. Engineer Bill doesn't want this to seem better than it is; there are lots of details that still need to be worked out. One very good aspect is that it helps facilitate the construction of the project. It is basically turned over to the Corp after design; they approve it and have their contract services company do the work. Director Kane expressed his concern that MEPRD needs to take a project from design thru construction in a traditional manner for educational purposes if nothing else. Director Kane asked the question if MEPRD could still design and bid our projects and build on this easement without giving the money to the Corp and letting them manage the project. Engineer Bill Baudendistel replied that is correct. Director Kane is interested to hear more about this but feels that MEPRD has yet to see a project through. Executive Director Mike Buehlhorn stated that the corporate office was the only one at this time. He also asked what the advantage would be to do this and Engineer Bill Baudendistel replied that he would have to see the Corp memorandum of agreement first before he could state the advantages. Director Kane asked what unit prices MEPRD would be using, current prices or prices that were bid four years ago. Engineer Bill Baudendistel stated he believed that they were on the first year of a five year bid cycle with this particular contractor. Director Kane asked how MEPRD would control the construction and the response was that the Corp actually provides quality control. Director Hogan made it aware that she had some concerns. Director Kane believes that it would be good for the MEPRD staff to take a project from beginning to end because there are lots of things that occur along the way that would be a great learning tool for everyone. Director Evans asked if the Corp would hold it against us if we don't go along with this and Executive Director said he believes it will have no effect. President Peters asked where this will go now and Engineer Bill Baudendistel stated that he should have the memorandum by the next board meeting and a draft of the cost share agreement.

Engineer Paul Homann restated the fact that we received bids for the 16 LCD lights on the fountain.

Director Kane brought up the facility use policy and believes it is a good start but wants to make sure that MEPRD keeps in mind that this is pretty all inclusive as to who can use this facility. Executive Director Buehlhorn stated that this policy has been brought before the Board several times and President Peters stated that it was his plan to get this policy ready. Director Hogan expressed her concern with the fact that the policy states no weddings and functions along that nature. Executive Director Buehlhorn stated that he feels like we would be taking away from other business if we did rent the facility for such purposes. President Peters would like to see the facility used but does not agree with the rental for various private functions. Planner Bryan Werner also brought up the fact that additional personnel would have to be on hand for private functions and thought the Board should consider those additional costs when making their decisions.

Director Kane mentioned that Great Rivers Greenway is beginning to update their long range plan, and thought we could coordinate efforts.

IX. Public Discussion and/or Comment

No public discussion and/or comment

X. Adjournment

At 8:33 p.m. President Peters asked to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Director Byers, seconded by Director McDowell to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rene' St. Peters
Administrative Assistant**

Next MEPRD meeting will be held on September 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.