

METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

320 Regency Centre, Collinsville, Illinois

Parks and Trails Committee

Minutes of February 28, 2006 Meeting 4:00 p.m..

Chairman Gene Peters called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Roll call was taken. Present were, Gene Peters, Madison County, Paul Evans, St. Clair County, Harold Byers, Madison County. Member Earl McDowell, St. Clair County was absent. Also in attendance were Mike Buehlhorn, Executive Director, Bryan Werner, Planner, Bill Baudendistel, District Engineer and Rene' St. Peters, Administrative Assistant.

Chairman Peters opened the meeting by turning it over to Bryan Werner who updated the committee on the changes to the binders. He mentioned the corrections that were noted at the last meeting have been changed.

Executive Director Buehlhorn then mentioned he has spoken to the Board President Pam Hogan regarding a few issues with the IDNR Bike Path Grant Application. The board had discussed two grants; one from Cargill Road area up to the Malcolm Martin Memorial Park. The other grant was additional funding for the Scott - Troy trail, when and if we receive an enhancement grant. Director Buehlhorn and Bill Baudendistel found out that there are three (3) different levee districts involved. All three levee districts along the trail are basically leasing from the railroads. Baudendistel suggested we apply our efforts into Troy/Scott to minimize our out of pocket costs. The ITEP Grant did not include any acquisition money at all for Phase 1, just construction costs for the 6.7 miles and Woodland Trail Connector. Gene Peters asked for clarification on the \$4.4 million dollar construction and engineering costs and Mike Buehlhorn explained that it included from School house trail to Kyle road in O'Fallon and also includes the connector to Woodland Park. What it does not include is the 1.3 miles from the School house trail down to I55-70.

Phase two of the Scott/Troy Trail is 6.7 miles and they required us to show acquisition, estimated costs, estimated appraisal cost and estimated survey costs. The Scott Troy Trail does not include the Woodland Park Trail. The trail going to Woodland Park is estimated to be in the \$400,000 range. The purchase price alone is approximately \$1.2 million. IDNR will match 50% of the certified market value and any additional cost necessary to acquire right of way with no limit.

The decision was made to submit two grants: One being the request for assistance with the local match, and the second being a development grant for the Woodland Park Trail. Gene Peters requested and asked that if the above information is put in writing somewhere and yes it is in the Public Meeting information.

At the last board meeting we discussed St. Clair County Transit District applying for an IDNR Grant for 50% of the local match, up to \$100,000 if they were successful. In recent discussions, Buehlhorn told them not to apply, since they were using federal funds and would not score as well. Jan Nation, a representative for IDNR stated that since they already had federal money they would most likely score poorly. Buehlhorn asked SCCTD if they could obtain the property from Century Brass for the ROW, if they would proceed sooner than the grant was available, and their response was positive. Buehlhorn contacted the Century Brass owners and attorney, and received a letter from PK Johnson addressed to St. Clair County Transit District discussing the details under which ROW could be acquired. All parties have agreed to negotiate for the ROW and the project can now be out for bids this summer.

Gene Peters wanted to check the status of some information from the last committee meeting. He inquired about the funding solution with MCT regarding the Scott Troy Trail. Buehlhorn informed Gene Peters that MCT is applying for an IDNR bikeway grant, and we have agreed to fund up to

50% of the local match to \$100,000. Gene also asked Baudendistel if he had contacted MCT for any work they have done on Confluence trail for our files for future use. Bill has actually acquired the plats from all the MSD right of ways. Peters also wanted to know if the MEPRD staff has been able to speak to any local municipalities to determine the possibilities for trail connections as part of new developments and Buehlhorn has spoken to O'Fallon and Swansea and they both believe that this is a workable situation.

Peters asked if the MEPRD staff had contacted MCT to determine what trail segments they were actively pursuing funds for. Buehlhorn stated the Hamel to Worden Trail and the McKinley Bridge to 20th street trail. We are committed to IDOT to have the McKinley Bridge to 20th Street Trail by September of 2007.

Under New business Buehlhorn discussed that we need a project for OSLAD. IDNR says that the MMMP riverview overlook is a structure and it will not score in an application well. He wanted to know if the committee wanted to do something else now and get started now in early Feb or March so we will be ready by July, is there any other park area to talk about or some type of acquisition we need to make. Paul Evans suggested that the committee revisit some of the Heitman Properties.

Gene Peters is on a committee and the I55 Corridor Plan has now been approved by all the governmental agencies. As this part of Madison County is developed trail connections are going to be a big issue because MCT does not have any retired railroad or levees, so all these trails are going to have to be developed by other means. Governors Parkway is continue to be constructed and funded in 2007 from downtown Glen Carbon all the way to I55. They are to build a separated trail alongside that section of Governors Parkway. The eastern end of that corridor is Silver Creek Trail. So at some point he thinks that MEPRD might want explore opportunities to place a regional park in that area.

Executive Director Buehlhorn recommended to the committee that they move the meetings to one hour prior to the regular board meetings for convenience. Members agreed.

At 5:04 p.m. Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to move into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of Property under 5ILCS 120/2 © (5).

Roll Call vote

Gene Peters Aye Harold Byers Aye Paul Evans Aye
All Ayes motion carried.

At 5:14 p.m. Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to return to regular session.

Roll Call vote

Gene Peters Aye Harold Byers Aye Paul Evans Aye
All Ayes motion carried.

At 5:15 p.m. Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to return adjourn meeting. Voice Vote All Ayes Motion Carried.

**Rene' St. Peters
Administrative Assistant**