

METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

320 Regency Centre, Collinsville, Illinois

Parks and Trails Committee

Minutes of August 14, 2006 Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Gene Peters called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

Present were: Gene Peters, Madison County  
Paul Evans, St. Clair County  
Harold Byers, Madison County

Mike Buehlhorn, Executive Director  
Bryan Werner, Planner

Absent were: Earl McDowell, St. Clair County

Chairman Peters opened the meeting by turning it over to the Executive Director to discuss the Scott Troy Trail. It was mentioned that resolution 06-09 will be in the regular board meeting for August that will authorize the Executive Director to execute grant agreements with IDOT. The grant covers the preliminary engineering which should start in the next few months. Chairman Peters asked what preliminary engineering would be done and Executive Director Buehlhorn stated that it will just be the Scott Troy Trail for now and if funds permit, they can fit in the other portion to Collinsville. Executive Director Buehlhorn would like to see all the preliminary engineering for the whole thing be done at one time, and we can take segments if need be, to get money to finish it from the School House Trail to State Street in O'Fallon. MEPRD had applied for more than \$1 million, but just received \$1 million. Juneau's estimates for preliminary engineering for phases 1 and 2, which included Woodland Park Trail, were PE1 was \$235,000 and PE2 \$470,000. Paul Evans asked if the grant was only to be used for engineering and the response was yes by Bryan Werner and Executive Director Buehlhorn.

At 6:08 p.m. Bill Baudendistel arrived

Executive Director Buehlhorn discussed the Confluence Trail, the section regarding the McKinley Bridge. MEPRD is still trying to work out a feasible alignment from 20<sup>th</sup> St. Granite City to the McKinley Bridge on the levee. MEPRD has a commitment with Great Rivers Greenway and IDOT to have the McKinley Bridge connected by September or October of 07. Gene Peters would like to know what would work with Rivers Edge. Executive Director Buehlhorn explained that they want to form a new trail on the roadway. They want a trail in back of the golf course which is more expensive. Paul Evans asked how many miles we were discussing and Bryan Werner said 6.6 miles. Gene Peters wanted to know if Rivers Edge Board has agreed that we can get on the levee from the mid point of their property all the way south. Bill Baudendistel stated no and that the agreement would be pending on their decision on what we would do in Rivers edge development. The other alternative is to come up 20<sup>th</sup> street and get on the levee there. MEPRD is currently working with the Corps of Engineers to use their easement of ownership. The only area that has not been determined is directly under the Merchant's Bridge. Gene Peters asked who is working on resolving the issue on getting from 20<sup>th</sup> Street to McKinley Bridge. Bill Baudendistel stated that he and Mike Buehlhorn would be working on the issue. The Corps is waiting on a legal description and some other items from MCT and Bill Baudendistel. Chairman Peters asked if there was any action that will need to be taken by MEPRD for resolution or will this be resolved by MCT. Executive Director Buehlhorn said that if MCT gets their information into the Corps of Engineers and they say yes, then it will be up to MCT to secure it. Bill Baudendistel believes that the best solution is coming down 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Paul Evans asked about our access from the McKinley Bridge to the trail, due to the fact that MEPRD does not have a trail location. Bill stated that there is a concept on the ramp on how to do this.

MEPRD's intent is to work with MSD, Ameren, Corp of Engineers, MCT, Rivers Edge and IDOT to make sure that this all happens and gets us open sometime next September.

Paul Evans asked how much time we had going backwards from the construction time and engineering time; do we have for negotiating. Bill Baudendistel explained that it is ongoing right now. Baudendistel also stated that if for some reason we could not work with MCT that our hopes of being able to fund getting from 20<sup>th</sup> Street and up on the bridge are slim, without using our own funds.

Planner Bryan Werner discussed the project completion/reimbursement schedule. Werner gave the Board members samples of the progress reports that are being sent out. He explained that many individuals have completed the projects but still have not sent in for reimbursement even though they have gone past the original expiration dates. Paul Evans asked if it would be a good idea to send out a formal notification letter to someone higher than the contact person to notify them that they will not get their reimbursement till this information is done. Planner Bryan Werner stated that is not necessary at this time. Paul Evans asked about Highland which is due in November. Bryan Werner stated that they have recently applied for an OLAD grant and if successful an extension would be appropriate. Chairman Peters asked if Bryan Werner visited the projects to verify information. Werner stated that he only goes out once the reimbursement is received to verify the project is complete. Gene Peters asked if there were any projects/grants that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention. Werner stated that there were none. He did not know what was going on with Alorton which has not returned anything. Buehlhorn stated they are going to be withdrawing their application.

#### Regional project updates

Executive Director Buehlhorn had a meeting last week with several people from St. Louis regarding the trestle and their plans for the St. Louis side down to Branch Street. The River Front Trail is to be completed by October of 2006. The David Polivick Grant is to be turned in next week on our Trail Head. Harold Byers asked if you could tell if progress has been made on the bridge. Executive Director Buehlhorn stated that all the progress is being done on the Missouri side. They can only work on one side at a time.

MEPRD is now in the Regional Bikeway Maps and they will be distributed next month.

**Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Director Byers that the Parks and Trails committee approve and recommend to the full Board the passing of Resolution 06-09.**

**Voice vote All Ayes Motion Carried**

**At 6:49 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**