

METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
104 United Drive, Collinsville, Illinois
Tuesday, November 12, 2013

I. Call to Order President Greg Yank called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

II Attendance Roll call / Establishment of Quorum

Present were: Harold Byers, Madison County
Gene Peters, Madison County
Barbara Hohlt, St. Clair County
Earl McDowell, St. Clair County
Gregory Yank, St. Clair County

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

Absent were: Jerry Kane, Madison County
Bill Baudendistel, Engineer
Paul Homann, Engineer

III. Public Discussion and/or Comment
No public comment or discussion.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a) Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Hohlt to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2013 regular meeting as presented.

Voice Vote All Ayes Motion carried

V. Consent Agenda

Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve the consent agenda items a through e as presented on pages 5-32.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Barbara Hohlt	Aye
Jerry Kane	Absent	Earl McDowell	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Gregory Yank	Aye

5 Ayes No Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

VI. Finance

a) Director Hohlt made a motion, seconded by Director Peters to approve the payments and claims for October 2013 MEPRD as presented on pages 33-40.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Barbara Hohlt	Aye
Jerry Kane	Absent	Earl McDowell	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Gregory Yank	Aye

5 Ayes No Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

b) Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director McDowell to approve the payments and claims for October 2013 MMMP as presented on page 41-43.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Barbara Hohlt	Aye
Jerry Kane	Absent	Earl McDowell	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Gregory Yank	Aye

5 Ayes No Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

c) No transfers to be made.

VII. Executive Director's / Staff Report

The following issues were discussed by Michael Buehlhorn, Executive Director.

Funding/Taxes:

Sales Tax questions:

Buehlhorn reported that he is still waiting for answers back from the Department of Revenue on the sales tax issue which will take several months.

Illinois Fund Account:

Buehlhorn discussed the Illinois Fund account and the interest rate of .0024 on that account. He would like to lower the monthly balance on that account from \$100,000.00 to the minimum allowed amount, and reinvest the funds at a higher rate to generate a better return on our money. There was no opposition to lowering the account to the minimum participation amount.

SAFB to Seibert Road Grant application with IDNR:

MEPRD has applied for a grant with the IDNR for this project with a total cost of \$1,733,800. \$200,000 would come from IDNR, \$1,200,000 from St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD) and the remaining balance of \$333,800 from MEPRD. TWM has recently discovered some mine subsidence issues in this area in regards to the tunnel location. It was noted that if the grant were approved, any additional costs would be borne by MEPRD.

Chairman Mark Kern has decided to change the project status to include SAFB to SWIC as outlined in our Long Range Plan, and move the Englemann Farm Trail to a later date. This would be a SCCTD project. There would be no maintenance issues, grant issues and the estimated cost for their project would be \$5,200,000. SCCTD would go under Route 158 on the same alignment with Metro with the proposed trail as that subsidence area has already been completed by IDOT and Metro.

Buehlhorn recommends that we do not press our current grant application and support the MCT application for our District. Director Gene Peters asked if we can still get our project completed by this plan of action and Buehlhorn stated that the project would terminate at the SAFB/Shiloh Metro station, as is the case now. However, the connection back to Seibert Road, about ¼ mile, would not be completed. He would like the County or SCCTD to continue the project from that point to the connection of the Scott Troy Trail under a similar contract that we have with Madison County Transit.

Buehlhorn believes this is the best way to get to the same location, and get a larger project that the District has no construction obligations for. Director Barb Hohlt agrees that this is the best way to get our projects completed. Director Gene Peters asked if there was any motion needed from the board to withdrawal the grant. Buehlhorn stated that he believes there is no need for a motion at this time and attorney John Papa agreed.

Buehlhorn feels a Memorandum of Understanding on any funding outside of our original grants program is necessary and will work with the attorney to forward same to the Board for consideration.

Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park:

Buehlhorn reported that we are receiving more interest in having weddings at the park and suggested that we revisit the MMMP rules and regulations to make sure that we have all possible issues covered.

Illinois River Link Funding (IRL)/Agreement:

Buehlhorn stated that in 2011 we applied for a Tiger IV grant that would involve Bunge, SCCTD, and St. Clair County. The project was not funded.

IDOT is proceeding with their plans, which is to build two Route 3 ramps to River Park Drive. The original plans were to use our IRL project to finish off Missouri Avenue, renew Front Street from River Park to Bunge and complete the trail from Bunge to MMMP.

The project has been ongoing without the TIGER funding and now stands at approximately \$8.2 million. St. Clair County will be the lead, St Clair County Transit, Bunge, SWIDA and DCEO are participants in the funding to date.

Buehlhorn also stated that the MEPRD long range budgeted amount for this project was \$1.5 million, however it does not include the bridge over Terminal Railroad Property. MEPRD will not know that cost until we receive the Terminal Railroad stipulations.

Buehlhorn stated that he and John Papa would draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the suggested requirements. The MOU will be forwarded to Board for consideration when completed.

Confluence/Earthcam:

Buehlhorn reported that the Confluence has an EarthCam on the top of the security building at the park. The cost to retain the EarthCam is a \$1,500 per year fee. The Confluence is no longer functioning and the EarthCam is a constant live view of the St. Louis Arch but does not cover any of the MMMP area. Staff is reviewing options to remove that camera and install a new camera with a better view of the park with the updated security system proposal for the park, and eliminate the EarthCam.

MEPRD Grant / Sponsorship programs:

Buehlhorn reported that the deadline for the grant is December 6, 2013. He also reported that this month there was one application for a sponsorship request from Get Up & Go, for their Annual 5k Gingerbread run/walk and it will be under New Business for consideration.

2013 Audit:

Buehlhorn reported that Larry Rose with Allison Knapp & Siekmann has completed the audit and will be attending the December meeting to report his findings to the board.

IPARKS:

Buehlhorn reported that we were inspected at both locations by the Loss Prevention Manager and no issues were reported.

New Baden:

Buehlhorn reported New Baden, Illinois in Clinton County, has their business district in St. Clair County. They have applied for an ITEP grant and would like to submit an application to MEPRD for the city park, which is located in Clinton County. It was explained that due to the location of the park we could not process a successful application, however one could be considered for a project within the boundaries of the District.

Security Camera Issues:

Buehlhorn explained that our current security system at the office and MMMP, is not compatible with our new Windows 7 operating system. Staff is looking into getting an updated system, with new 60 hour DVR's for both locations. Mr. Hier with the Gateway Center has informed the Director they would assist in providing funds up to \$15,000 towards the new security equipment at the park.

Policy Binders:

Binders with the current MEPRD policies were passed out to each Board Member for their own records.

Planner Bryan Werner reported that the MEPRD Facebook page is growing in popularity and is really helping get the MEPRD name out.

VIII. Old Business No old business was discussed.

IX. New Business

a) Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve the sponsorship request from Get Up and Go!, for their Gingerbread 5K Run/Walk event in the amount of \$2,500.00.

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers	Aye	Barbara Hohlt	Aye
Jerry Kane	Absent	Earl McDowell	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Gregory Yank	Aye

5 Ayes No Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

b) Report of District Engineers – No engineers present at the meeting therefore no report was given.

X. Adjournment

At 12:28 p.m. President Yank asked to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Director Peters seconded by Director Hohlt 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 December 10, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.