

**METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT**  
104 United Drive, Collinsville, Illinois  
**Tuesday September 8, 2015**

**I. Call to Order** President Barbara Hohlt called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**II Attendance Establishment of Quorum**

Present were: Harold Byers, Madison County  
Jerry Kane, Madison County  
Gene Peters, Madison County  
Barbara Hohlt, St. Clair County  
Earl McDowell, St. Clair County  
Gregory Yank, St. Clair County  
  
Michael Buehlhorn, Executive Director  
Bryan Werner, Planner  
Rene' St. Peters, Administrative Assistant  
John Papa, Attorney

Absent were: None

**III. Public Discussion and/or Comment** No Public Discussion and/or Comment was heard

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

**Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2015 regular meeting as presented.**

Roll Call Vote

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

6 Ayes No Nays None Absent None Abstain Motion Carried

**V. Consent Agenda**

**Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Yank to approve the consent agenda items a thru e as presented on pages 5-26.**

Roll Call Vote

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

6 Ayes No Nays None Absent None Abstain Motion Carried

**VI. Finance**

a) **Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve the payments and claims for August 2015 MEPRD minus checks 6906 for \$51,585.80 & 6907 \$31,861.64 for MCT as presented on pages 27-33.**

Roll Call Vote

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

6 Ayes No Nays None Absent None Abstain Motion Carried

**Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director McDowell to approve the payments and claims for August 2015 MEPRD checks 6906 for \$51,585.80 & 6907 for \$31,861.64 payable to MCT.**

Roll Call Vote

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

5 Ayes No Nays None Absent 1 Abstained Motion Carried

b) **Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Peters to approve the payments and claims for August 2015 MMMP as presented on pages 34-36.**

Roll Call Vote

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

6 Ayes No Nays None Absent None Abstain Motion Carried

## VII. **Executive Director's Staff Report**

### Funding

We have not received our funds, nor or any reports updated for this month on the State website. This is most likely due to the holiday weekend. As you can see in the reports the past year did show an increase over the previous year of approximately 2.2%, or \$46,503.39.

An Illinois American easement request was received and is under review. The document has been forward to Illinois American with our comments and once signed by them, it will be brought to the Board for action. There are many provisions in the agreement to make certain the grounds are not damaged, and a \$38,000 onetime payment, which is an average of our last two years of water usage.

### Grants

We were awarded the \$30,000 grant from St. Clair County for energy efficient lighting at MMMP.

We are currently filling out an application to DCEO and Ameren to replace the lighted bollards at the parks with new LED lighting. Pyramid Electric and EMS are working with us

on the application. It should be in the \$60,000 -75,000 range in addition to the original \$30,000 in the St. Clair County Grant. The funds are supplied to DCEO by Ameren and distributed from DCEO.

#### MMMP

We have found a fairly significant hole at the park on the east side of the geyser. After speaking with TWM, we contacted SCI Engineering to decide the best action to take. The hole is approximately 18” x 18” and is 4-5 feet deep. Paul Homann is now contacting a drilling company to put a concrete slurry in it to seal it off.

We met with the NPS and a representative from VISTA, a division of AmeriCorps. The mission for the next year is to involve East St. Louis youth in National Park Service activities and perhaps share some programs at our location.

Staff, Mr. Hier and Colonel Atkins were interviewed by Mary Delach on 20th anniversary of geyser, from St. Louis Public Radio, 90.7 KWMU.

#### Payments

The Woodriver Triathlon, Autism Bike at Dawn have completed their events and payment has been sent.

#### Events

Libby Rueter from Watershed CAIRNS has contacted us regarding beach party on Mosenthein Island. They will be working with various agencies. No requests were made of the District other than current owner/contact information.

We met with representatives of Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey and reviewed their plans for more trails and connectors.

We are working with NPS on 50th Anniversary of Arch. As it stands as of this meeting there will be an Arch Fest at Kiener Plaza on October 22nd-24th. On the 24th, we will have a small celebration with Board members from MEPRD, Gateway Center, and a few invited individuals honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Geyser at our location at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided and fireworks will follow provided by the Arch fest and the arch will be lit up in gold for the 50th Anniversary.

Attended the Swansea Fire and Police Children’s Camp which was funded with money from our Swansea Patriots grant last year. 42 children were afforded two days of camp like activities in Swansea Parks.

#### Updates

Bryan Werner gave a brief update on our upcoming newsletter and our connections to be made through Constant Contacts.

### **VIII. Old Business**

### **IX. New Business**

**Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Peters to approve by omnibus vote Section IX, Items A & B.**

Roll Call Vote

Harold Byers

Aye

Barbara Hohlt

Aye

Jerry Kane	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Gregory Yank	Aye

6 Ayes No Nays None Absent None Abstained Motion Carried

- a) **Reimbursement Request from the The Village of Freeburg for \$9,005.26 for their completed grant project titled: Village Park Gazebo.**
- b) **Resolution 14-45 Re: Grant Request from Edwardsville Township for project titled: “Edwardsville Township Park restroom renovations” in the amount of \$1,500.00.**
- c) **Reimbursement Request from Madison County Transit for competed project titled “MCT Ronald J. Foster Heritage Trail” in the amount of \$300,000.00.**

**Director Yank made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve MCT reimbursement request for project; MCT Ronald J. Foster Heritage Trail in the amount of \$300,000.00.**

Roll Call Vote

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

5 Ayes No Nays None Absent 1 Abstained Motion Carried

- d) **Report of Engineers/Attorney** No report was given

**X. Executive Session**

**Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)**

**At 11:43 a.m. Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director McDowell to leave regular session and enter into Executive session to discuss Personnel Issues pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).**

Roll Call Vote

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

6 Ayes No Nays None Absent None Abstain Motion Carried

**At 12:16 p.m. back into regular session**

Roll Call Vote

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

6 Ayes No Nays None Absent None Abstain Motion Carried

**Director Kane made an advisory motion, seconded by Director Peters, that will be ratified next month, to have personnel issues placed on the agenda for the purpose of increasing the Executive Director's current salary of \$102,083.67 by 2%, retroactive to July 1, 2015.**

Roll Call Vote

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

5 Ayes 1 Nays None Absent None Abstain Motion Carried

**XI. Adjournment**

**At 12:18 p.m. President Hohlt asked to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Director Byers seconded by Director Yank 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 October 13, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.**