

METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
104 United Drive, Collinsville, Illinois
Tuesday, May 10, 2016

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

II. Attendance / Establishment of Quorum

Present were: Harold Byers, Madison County
Gene Peters, Madison County
Jerry Kane, Madison County
Barbara Hohlt, St. Clair County
Earl McDowell, St. Clair County entered meeting at 11:15 a.m.
Gregory Yank, St. Clair County

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

Absent were: John Papa, Attorney

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Peters to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2016 regular meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent 0 Abstain 1 Present Motion Carried

V. Consent Agenda

Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Kane to approve the consent agenda items a thru e as presented on pages 5-28, with staff to provide information regarding the accounts receivable amount presented at a later time.

Roll Call Vote

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent 0 Abstain Motion Carried

VI. Finance

a) Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Yank to approve the payments and claims for April 2016 - as presented on pages 29-35.

Roll Call Vote

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent 0 Abstain Motion Carried

b) Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Kane to approve the payments and claims for April 2016 - MMMP as presented on pages 36-37.

Roll Call Vote

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent 0 Abstain Motion Carried

Director Earl McDowell entered the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

VII. Executive Director’s Staff Report

Executive Director Buehlhorn gave his report and stated that:

The District has not received our April check due to the earliness of our meeting this month. We are still on a path to be at almost a 2% increase for the year overall.

There were no CD renewals in April, other than those previously indicated.

The \$500.00 grant check was received from IPARKS and the camera has been installed by Brewster Alexander. The final bill was approved in payments and claims for \$1,630.00.

He had met with Mr. Hier and brought the amendment to the Donation agreement regarding statues, monuments, naming rights, etc. to his Board. He has received and filed a signed copy of their approval.

The installation of the water main across the park has been completed. The irrigation system was reinstalled on Wednesday April 27 and the sod was installed on this past Friday. The project has been inspected and is complete.

The lighting of the geyser project has been completed. We are awaiting testing and installation of a time clock.

The staff has continued to meet with SCCTD representative Taulby Roach in regards to the Front Street Trail from Bunge north to the McKinley Bridge. A name for the project needs to be on the application. It is thought that something that we can identify the area with for signage and history would be appropriate. A couple of the suggested names are:

- Wiggins Ferry Trail, depicting the origins of the railroad in the early days
- Front Street Riverfront Trail, aligning to the Riverfront Trail in St. Louis
- Malcolm Martin Trail, to entice people to come to the park
- MEPRD Riverfront East Trail, for obvious reasons

Staff is still receiving grant inquiries from several communities. There currently is \$241,000.00 left in the FY16 Grants funds, and about \$17,000.00 in the Sponsorship fund, assuming all application are passed under New Business.

He has met with Bill Baudendistel to complete the acquisition reimbursement portion for the Scott-Troy Trail. Documents were hand delivered to Jan Nation at IDNR. If successful, we should receive around \$175,000.00 in reimbursement costs once the State has a budget, if approved by IDNR.

Staff has been working on budgets for FY17.

It is estimated that the current budget (FY16) for MEPRD will show that our income is about \$74,000.00 over our projections. Our expenses are approximately \$ 75,000.00 under our projections.

At MMMP (FY16) there is little change in the revenue position. Expense projections show a saving of about \$42,000.00. They can be attributed to rain and lower utility bills via changes that have been initiated. The \$38,000.00 contribution from Illinois American for the water main work assisted in the revenue portion.

FY17 budget at MEPRD will show a small increase in revenues of about \$50,000.00 from the sales tax, based on previous increases, and a \$46,450.00 increase in expenditures estimated. It should be noted of that expenditure increase that \$25,000 will be to St. Clair and Madison Counties for their portion of the sales tax.

At MMMP, we expect revenues to be flat, as we will ask Gateway Center for another donation sometime later this fall. Due to the new LED lighting and aggregation agreement, we expect to see additional utility savings and are projecting our expenses will be about \$13,000.00 lower next year.

We have updated the five year plan accordingly and have also added a 10 year projection, so we can better see how we are estimating the future funding at MMMP. Keeping in mind that these are projections, and there are many variables that could change either of these. New grants, new projects and utilities and wages are examples of those potential adjustments.

We will still be working with Gateway, for example, to work out a way to utilize their 501 (c)3 status to secure grants for the park.

The worst case scenario is that the 10 year format remains exactly as it is written. The District assuming the Gateway estimates of revenue are correct, would begin funding the park somewhere in the vicinity of FY 2022. Those calculations have also been formatted into the MEPRD projections.

It was suggested that some assumptions be noted on the 10 year plan, and staff will include those in the next draft.

As noted last month, staff has also been working on suggested changes to the Park and Trail matching grant application as well as the Sponsorship application. Changes have been passed out with our suggestions. At this date, we have received some comments and will insert them and place the formal changes on the agenda in June for approval. It will be recommended that we fund the grant program at \$1.4 million and the sponsorship program at \$35,000.00 with the recommended changes.

In addition we have tried to match up some of the comments from the last meeting for a 50% matching grant program. Staff would suggest a combination of a couple of the ideas. A new program called the Safe Parks Program, with a maximum budget of \$200,000.00, and maximum

grant participation by MEPRD up to \$10,000.00 for security equipment. In addition, a grantee receiving this grant would still be eligible for participation in the Park and Trail Grant program. One of the stipulations would be that no MEPRD “tax” money can be used as the portion of the applicants match. In other words, SCC Grants and Madison PEP grants would not be eligible. The requirement of the municipality being the matching participant in his grant only has been removed, meaning they could get the remainder of the funds from any grant or donor, but not the St. Clair and Madison groups involved in MEPRD funding.

At the last meeting we addressed the issue regarding the Conoco property near 255 and the possibility of a donation to the district. Director Peters contacted the refinery and was sent an email stating they may be interested at some point in time, but they currently need the space to be as is, and serve as a needed buffer to the plant. It was a very cordial and supportive letter on behalf of Conoco-Phillips, and perhaps some time in the future this becomes a reality for our District or one of the neighboring Districts.

The District worked with staff at IDNR on the Horseshoe Lake issue, however it was resolved after about 10 days of negotiations by a private donor. The State was very appreciative of our efforts to reopen the park.

Bryan Werner gave a review of the new Grants for Parks and Trails as well as the Sponsorship grants and any changes that have been discussed.

Bryan Werner then gave a presentation on the Projects in the New Business agenda items which were discussed individually with the information presented.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Yank to approve by omnibus vote Section IX, Items A thru F.

Roll Call Vote

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

6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain Motion Carried

a) Resolution 16-08 Re: Grant Request from City of Edwardsville for \$300,00.00 for their project titled “Sports Park Complex Land Acquisition”.

b) Resolution 16-09 Re: Grant Request from Nature Preserve Foundation for \$112,085.00 for their project titled: “Watershed Nature Center Improvement Project.

c) Resolution 16-10 Re: Grant Request from City of Wood River for \$50,000.00 for their project titled: “Belk Park Walking Path and Bridge”.

d) Resolution 16-11 Re: Grant Request from City of Highland for \$127,500.00 for their project titled: “Troxler Avenue Shared Used Path”.

e) Event Sponsorship Request: 9/11 Memorial Walkway of Southern Illinois is requesting \$1,000.00 for their event titled: 5th Annual Memorial Walkway 5K Run/Walk - that will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016.

f) Event Sponsorship Request: Metro East Cycling is requesting \$1,000.00 for their event titled: O'Fallon Grand Prix - that will be held on the weekend of June 17-19, 2016.

g) Report from Attorney/Engineers. No report was given.

X. Adjournment

At 12:16 p.m. President Hohlt asked to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Director Kane seconded by Director Peters 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 June 20, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.