

METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
104 United Drive – Collinsville, Illinois 62234
Minutes from the August 13, 2007 meeting held at 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order - President Earl McDowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II Attendance - Roll call was taken.

Present were: Harold Byers, Madison County
Jerry Kane, Madison County
Gene Peters, Madison County
Paul Evans, St. Clair County
Pam Hogan, St. Clair County
Earl McDowell, St. Clair County

Mike Buehlhorn, Executive Director
Bryan Werner, Planner
Rene' St. Peters, Administrative Assistant
Ed Szewczyk, Attorney in at 7:06 p.m.
Bill Baudendistel, Juneau Associates

Absent were: Anna Heavner, Intern

Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to move agenda item VIII-A first.

Voice Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

a) Request for participation / Englemann Farm

St. Clair County Chairman Mark Kern described that they are trying to acquire a piece of real estate referred to as the Englemann Farm. This property is near the Shiloh border and is approximately 150 acres and would make for a great recreational space. The property is significant because it is the home of Frederick Englemann who was a co-founder of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and many of the same plants that are planted in the botanical garden are also planted on this piece of property. In addition this property is where the first Christmas tree in the Mississippi Valley was decorated. At the highest point of the property you can see all the way to the St. Louis Arch and the court house and you can also see the other Englemann Farm located in Mascoutah. They want to tie this property into a bike trail near SWIC and then to O'Fallon. The Englemann cemetery is still located there and still active. Plans for the \$4.6 million dollar purchase price include \$1 million from St. Clair County, \$600,000 from the Regional County Park and Recreation group and \$400,000 from MEPRD for a three year period, also OSLAD seeking three rounds of \$750,000. It has not been determined who will be used to acquire the land. Director Peters asked how close it was to a connection to the metro link trail, and was told about a mile. St.Clair County Chairman Mark Kern explained that this is a great piece of property; it is surrounded by subdivisions which would make a great park for the County.

Director Kane made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to indicate a positive intent for MEPRD to participate in the funding of the acquisition for the Englemann Farm consistent with the request for the \$400,000.00 per year for three years.

Roll Call Vote 5 Ayes No Nays 1 Abstain Motion Carried

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Abstain
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

III. Approval of Minutes

Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Director Peters to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2007 regular meeting with the suggested corrections.

Voice Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

IV. Consent Agenda

Director Hogan made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

V. Finance

a) Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Byers to approve the payments and claims for July 2007 MEPRD on pages 31-40 of agenda.

Roll Call Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

b) Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Hogan to approve the payments and claims for July 2007 MMMP pages 41-48 with a breakdown of the Wisper ISP bill.

Roll Call Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

c) Director Byers made a motion seconded by Director Hogan to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to transfer \$300,000.00 from the Illinois Funds checking account to the Bank of Edwardsville money market checking account for District business purposes.

Roll Call Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Hogan to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Illinois Fund account to the Malcolm Martin Memorial Bank of Edwardsville checking account for business purposes.

Roll Call Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

VI. Executive Director's Report

Nothing more added by the Executive Director other than what was reported in the agenda packet.

VII. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

VIII. New Business

a) Request for participation / Englemann Farm / Mark Kern, SCC Chairman

Moved to beginning of meeting.

b) McKinley Bridge

Bill Baudendistel explained to the Board that it would be beneficial for MEPRD to start negotiations with Halverson Construction Company regarding the Ramp Down off the McKinley Bridge. Since this item needs to be passed by Resolution further discussion is being moved to a Special Meeting to be held on August 20, 2007.

c) Request for Reimbursement – Hellrung Park, Alton

Director Peters made a motion, seconded by Director Kane to approve the Planner's recommendation to reimburse the City of Alton a total of \$100,000.00 for completion of their project titled; Hellrung Park as part of the Regional Project Grant Program.

Roll Call Vote 6 Ayes No Nays Motion Carried

Harold Byers	Aye	Paul Evans	Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye	Pam Hogan	Aye
Gene Peters	Aye	Earl McDowell	Aye

d) Mississippi River Overlook

Executive Director Buehlhorn discussed the issues with the concrete work at the Platform, and a decision to have the entire surface sand blasted at the end of completion and then a sealant will be put down.

e) Request for Qualifications

Director Evans made a motion seconded by Director Byers that in response to the submittals for Request for Qualifications for Engineering services that the MEPRD Board accept the proposals from Juneau Associates and Thouvenot, Wade and Moerchen, Inc. and that the Executive Director enter into a relationship with both engineering firms for services.

Roll Call Vote	All Ayes	No Nays	Motion Carried
Harold Byers	Aye		Paul Evans Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye		Pam Hogan Aye
Gene Peters	Aye		Earl McDowell Aye

f) Report from District Engineer on Projects

Bill Baudendistel talked about the loss of water issue at the Geysers and the amount of water being lost is about 430 gallons per day. Several options are being considered to correct this issue. Also our OSLAD Phase One project has been pushed back due to not being able to complete certain items which are located near the MRO construction boundaries.

Bill Baudendistel also mentioned that MCT and MEPRD have reached an agreement regarding the Scott Troy Trail.

McKinley Bridge – We now have the alignment from Ameren at the MMM Park and can proceed on the utility relocation.

IX. Public Discussion and/or Comment

No public discussion or comment

X. Executive Session for review of previous Executive Session Minutes as provided under 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) in the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

At 8:31 p.m. Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Evans to exit the regular scheduled meeting and enter into Executive Session for review of previous Executive Session Minutes as provided under 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) in the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call Vote	All Ayes	No Nays	Motion Carried
Harold Byers	Aye		Paul Evans Aye
Jerry Kane	Aye		Pam Hogan Aye
Gene Peters	Aye		Earl McDowell Aye

Back into regular meeting at 8: 37 p.m.

XI. Adjournment:

At 8:38 p.m. Director Byers made a motion, seconded by Director Hogan to adjourn the meeting. All voted and the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Next MEPRD meeting will be held on Monday September 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., at the MEPRD district office 104 United Drive, Collinsville, Illinois.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rene' St. Peters, Administrative Assistant**