

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 20, 2021

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to execute a Permanent Easement with WE Energies to replace and extend underground electric facilities and install a transformer at the corner of E Brady St. and N Prospect Ave.

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Authorization to execute a Permanent Easement with WE Energies to replace and extend underground electric facilities and install a transformer on parkland at the corner of E Brady St. and N. Prospect Ave.

POLICY

§ 59.17(2)(b)3., Wis. Stats., states that the “county board may continue to exercise the authority under s. 59.52(6) with regard to land that is zoned as a park...”. In the law of property, authority over “land” includes authority over all rights appurtenant to the land.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	§ 59.17(2)(b)3.
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County Parks frequently coordinates with WE Energies for the purpose of utility services both to Parks facilities and across parkland. The current request from WE Energies is to replace and extend an underground electric utility easement and install a transformer at the corner of E Brady St. and N Prospect Ave.

The easement requested is related to the fiber buildout in the City of Milwaukee. The company requesting the electric service is Unitie Fiber. WE Energies reviewed the site plan and considered all possible routes and existing conflicts and determined the most reasonable route

was the extension of a existing underground electrical easement and placement of a small transformer on parkland. Parks has reviewed this request and notes that the impact to parkland is very minor at .008 acres for the easement. The placement seems reasonable due to large amount of utilities in the area and no reasonable alternative within the Right of Way; and there is a benefit to the overall community of increased access to high speed internet. There is a possible future benefit to Parks of a reduction in cost if Parks should have future fiber or electric needs near this location. Using comparable land values, WE Energies is offering \$2,000 for the proposed easement rights.

New services are installed by WE Energies and their contractors, and permission for installation work is granted through the Parks Right-of-Entry permit process. Granting the permanent easements is necessary for the long-term operation of the utility on Park property and requires authorization from the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive.

Related File No's:	
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This easement is related to the buildout of fiber in the City of Milwaukee to improve access to high-speed internet, which improves equality and provides opportunities for economic growth. Milwaukee County Parks has benefited from the City's fiber buildout as it creates opportunity and decreases cost in getting fiber to park locations. Although this location does not immediately benefit Parks, the fiber buildout benefits the community as a whole. If Parks identifies future fiber or electric needs near this location installation of this transformer will reduce the cost of future improvements.

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

FISCAL EFFECT

Increase of revenues in the current budget year of \$2,000 to help meet revenue targets.

TERMS

The easement is permanent. One-time payment of \$2,000.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Erica Goblet, Contracts Manager, Milwaukee County Parks

PREPARED BY:

Erica Goblet, Contracts Manager

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Parks Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Fiscal Note

Easement

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB