



Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Board of Directors Meeting

February 14, 2014

Minutes (draft)

Participants:

Bob Miller - Pilot
Terri McCullough - Secretary
Craig Mitckes - (IL-MRPC)
John Sheahan - (TN-MRPC)
Edith Feiffer - (IA-MRPC)
Jane Reagan - (IA-MRPC proxy)
Joe St. Columbia (AR-MRPC)
Sherry Quamme - (WI-MRPC)

Holly Cain - Treasurer
Karl Samp - Pilot Pro Tem
Sheldon Johnson - (MN-MRPC)
Bill Seratt - (MS-MRPC)
Ruth Hawkins - Culture and Heritage
Carol Zoff - Transportation
Frank Nickell - (MO-MRPC)
Susanne Barnet – National Office

Pilot Miller called the meeting to order at 9:03am. on Friday, February 14, 2014. A quorum was present.

- **Past Meeting Minutes from 12/13/13**

Motion to approve by IL and second by AR. Motion carried.

- **Financial Report from 12/31/13**

Cain presented the financial report as of 12/31/13. Motion to approve by AR and second by Secretary. Motion carried.

A request was made that the finance committee meet prior to the spring meeting to discuss alternative options for the funds in the CD and money market.

- **Geotourism Project and MRCC meeting**

Some people received materials from MRCC. Miller will provide materials to each board member, as requested. Jim Dion from National Geographic met with about 25 people in Minnesota earlier this week. During that presentation he explained that half of the money goes to National Geographic and the other half to the MRT and community engagement. The platform is ERSI, to take advantage of mapping. The amenity categories will be flexible. Questions were raised at the Minnesota meeting about the metrics of existing websites compared to metrics of geo-sites and whether this project will replicate existing efforts. It was noted by Samp, who was in attendance at the MN meeting, that it was a healthy discussion and he would be attending the MRCC meeting in Memphis in March on behalf of the MRPC. Samp continued to share information noting that geo-tourism is about sustainability and this project is more than a website. It's authenticity of place and safeguarding the integrity of place.

- **Endowment Grant Request**

Miller noted that since the agenda was distributed, this request was withdrawn.

- **MRPC Technical Committee Recruitment**

Carol Zoff stated that 10-state MRPC participation from technical staff has declined over the years. She noted that in the MRPC's current strategic plan, we include the need to strengthen partnerships. As a result she asked for an analysis of attendance from technical staff at national meetings over the past years. The national office indicated that staff would pull registrations and provide that data. It was suggested that we reach out to individuals and to those state and federal agencies and ask for

their participation again.

- **2014 Semi-Annual and Annual Meetings.**

The national office reported that the spring meeting is scheduled in Alton, Illinois April 23-25, beginning with a welcome reception on Wednesday, April 23 and ending at 4pm on Friday, April 25. The fall meeting will take place in Memphis, Tennessee with a date and specific location still pending.

- **Other business**

Miller opened it up to any states with updates.

Wisconsin reported that Al Lorenz retired as state chair, replaced by Sherri Quamme.

Illinois noted that they're preparing to welcome everyone in late April for the semi-annual meeting. The IL-MRPC continues to operate in a state of flex, looking to moving forward and reorganize.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05am.