



Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Board of Directors Meeting
October 6, 2015
Minutes (draft)

Participants:

Bob Miller - Pilot

Terri McCullough - Secretary

Faye Wilkinson - (MS-MRPC)

Sherry Quamme - (WI-MRPC)

Edith Pfeffer - (IA-MRPC)

Karl Samp - Pilot Pro Tem (MN-MRPC proxy)

Doug Bourgeois - (LA-MRPC)

Greg Pruitt - (KY-MRPC roxy)

Frank Nickell - (MO-MRPC)

Norma Pruitt - Marketing

Carol Zoff - Transportation

Ruth Hawkins - Culture & Heritage

Dave Senjem (MN)

Mark Kross (MO)

Susanne Barnet – National Office

Pilot Bob Miller called the meeting to order at 4:05pm on October 6, 2015 in New Orleans, LA. A quorum was present.

- **Past Meeting Minutes from 7/17/15** Motion to approve by MN. Second by WI. Motion carried.
- **Financial Report as of 8/30/14** Motion to approve by AR. Second by MS. Motion carried.
- **Strategic Plan** The National office reviewed the strategic plan edits. The board requested the following additional edits: add "annual" to the bullet referencing visits to the interpretive centers and using the checklist forms. Add bullets for evaluating staff (executive committee) and exploring staffing options to carry out strategic plan (executive committee). Motion to approve with these additions by MN. Second by WI. Motion carried.
- **National Geographic Geotourism Project** Bob Miller updated the Board that there is a planning meeting in November in New Orleans and he would have more of an update after that meeting.
- **Mississippi River Trail** Dan Jatres and Ruth Hawkins from the MRT Board joined our meeting to begin an informal discussion of the future of MRT, possibly under the MRPC, that could be brought back to the their board. The MRT is looking ahead to wrapping up the National Geographic project. MRT is currently a volunteer only organization with no paid staff. Volunteers maintain social media and the website. Currently we have a national memo of agreement with MRT. Could MRT be a committee within MRPC? Hawkins said her personal view, not the Board, is that there is duplication of efforts. Most of MRPC's CMP have a bicycling component. However, she has concerns about maintaining MRT signage, as well as keeping the website and social media. She said the biggest concern of MRT are the committed volunteers. MRPC is politically appointed commissioners. Would MRT get lost in MRPC? Terri McCullough said she is complimented that MRT see themselves fitting into MRPC. Jatres said there are some recurring costs, such as the website but volunteers pay their own expenses to meet. Carol Zoff thinks MRT could incorporate into MRPC's four standing committees. Karl Samp said MRT could become part of the ERA committee and could infuse energy. Bob Miller said MRT can put together their ideas within the coming year. Zoff said right now under Map21, way finding is no longer an eligible expense. Miller said Congressman Ron Kind is trying to add signage to the Transportation bill. Zoff noted that signs are disappearing over time due to construction, weather, etc. Miller asked MRT to bring a model for us to consider. Edith Pfeffer asked whether they would be more effective as a standalone committee rather than joining an MRPC

committee. Jatres and Hawkins indicated they would bring this information to their board and respond back to MRPC.

- **MRCC Year of Birding** Bob Miller indicated that we wrote a letter of support for the Year of Birding 2016, as part of our partnership with the MRCC. Sherri Quamme asked if this has any connection with Bird City but Miller did not think so.
- **2016 Budget Process** The national office reminded everyone that a draft budget would be presented during the December meeting based on committee and board requests that come out of this meeting.
- **Recognize John Sheahan, TN** Bob Miller expressed what a pleasure it was working with John and how greatly he will be missed. He asked that a communication occur with Diana Threadgill, specifically to see if her board has a representative from each GRR county, and whether they have someone of interest to be part of MRPC. Greg Pruitt asked if the bylaws allowed for John to be a board member. Bob Miller said he was uncertain but would look further into it.
- **Other business** Bob Miller asked Terri McCullough for an update from the staff review sub-committee. McCullough distributed a survey, to use as an instrument in conducting the review. She said she would make copies of the contract exhibit for the board. She indicated that the purpose of the review is to look at things we pay for and the level of implementation and satisfaction with that. She asked for feedback on the survey and stressed that the committee wants Board input. She gave a deadline of November 9.
- **Other business** MS stated that Rose Baehnke is unable to attend due to a recent health issue.
- **Other business** IA said they are meeting with their governor next week and they had concerns about paying for shipping since they are paying \$15,000 dues. She expressed concern that it was suggested that they not pay dues but take the \$ and promote. Discussion started for the need to take the annual reports from each state and compile one national report that would show the benefits of being part of the MRPC, including quantitative information. A motion was made by LA to compile this information each calendar year and perhaps turn it into an infographic. Second by MS. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.