



Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2015
Minutes (draft)

Participants:

Karl Samp - Pilot

Bob Miller - Pilot Emeritus

Terri McCullough - Pilot Pro Tem

Holly Cain - Treasurer

Faye Wilkinson - Secretary (MS-MRPC)

Sherry Quamme - (WI-MRPC)

Jane Reagan - (IA-MRPC proxy)

Craig Mitckes - (IL-MRPC)

Sheldon Johnson - (MN-MRPC)

Greg Pruitt - (KY-MRPC proxy)

Norma Pruitt - Marketing

Carol Zoff - Transportation

Ruth Hawkins - Culture & Heritage

Susanne Barnet – National Office

Pilot Karl Samp called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:07am on Friday, December 11, 2015. A quorum was present.

- **Past Meeting Minutes from 10/6/15** Motion to approve by WI. Second by Pilot Pro Tem. Motion carried.
- **Financial Report as of 11/30/15** Motion to approve by WI. Second by MS. Motion carried.
- **2016 MRPC Budget** Motion to approve by WI. Second by IL. Motion carried.
- **National Office Review** Terri McCullough indicated that she received 72% of surveys back, although past deadline. She said she's pleased with the instrument and found that most priority items were confirmed. However, she said she's putting this on the back burner until the committee can meet with the national office, perhaps prior to the upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting. The Pilot extended a thank you to Terri, Carol and Craig for their time.
- **National Geographic** Bob Miller attended the MRCC meeting in mid-November in New Orleans, along with a few other MRPC commissioners. The meeting consisted of discussions about the year of fishing and year of birding, tours of the levee top trails, collaboration ideas, and the nat-geo project. The new website will be live in April or May with an official launch in June. Themes were identified, along with people to interview for inclusion on the web (such as Gayle Harper and locals). The group is also looking for an iconic writer. The group worked on a marketing plan that will be distributed in February and they're looking for corporate sponsorships to help cover maintenance expenses.

Tasks for the MRPC include: developing itineraries and nominating festivals that are grand. The overall theme is, "Explore our heart, soul and nature." The Board requested that Bob and the national office follow up with Jim Dion regarding a number of items, including: the itineraries linking to the itineraries already located on the experiencemississippiriver.com site, should each state submit their own GRR route as an asset, what GRR interpretive centers are already nominated, and can we have an added category with our logo specifically called GRR interpretive centers? Bob noted the next MRCC meeting will be held in February.

- **TN Request to the Board** The board received a letter from Diana Threadgill with Mississippi River Corridor-TN that requested Mark McAdoo with the TN Department of Transportation represent TN

on the MRPC Board. A motion was made by WI to approve the nomination of Mark McAdoo to the MRPC Board with full voting privileges pending an update to the bylaws, which are anticipated to occur at the April 2016 Semi-Annual meeting . Second by KY. Motion carried. The Pilot requested that Bylaws committee chair Bobby Kennedy review and make suggestions that would approve Mark as a board member with voting rights. This update would allow technical members to be voting members.

- **10-State Biking Event** Faye Wilkinson read a memo from MS Commissioner Derek Biglane suggesting the national commission consider developing a 10-state bicycling event. Discussion followed regarding interest by the states and how it would take several years to organize. There was a request that we discuss at greater length during the upcoming Semi-Annual meeting, and it was requested that Derek be involved in that discussion based on his interest with this type of event. With current MRT conversations, an event like this could be a great start to the partnership.
- **Gayle Harper Partnership** The national office provided a brief overview of the recent partnership with Gayle Harper, where she is providing a GRR map with her book and MRPC is promoting her book on the website and in social media. Discussion regarding a policy or guidelines about partnerships in general will continue at our spring meeting. Until that time, all requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- **Other business** Sherry Quamme requested that we consider scheduling future meetings on a Tuesday through Thursday pattern instead of Wednesday through Friday. She asked that this begin in 2017. The Pilot asked everyone to consider it so we can discuss in during the spring meeting. Sherry also reported that WI is likely going to hire Gayle Harper to speak at the upcoming Semi-Annual meeting. She hopes to have more information to share in February.
- **Other business** Norma Pruitt asked about a link to the Landsend page for ordering. The national office referred all to the [experiencemississippi](http://experiencemississippi.com) site under the Shop button.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28am.