

Mississippi State Report
Mississippi River Parkway Commission
2018 Annual Meeting

Recap of 2017-2018:

The Mississippi MRPC continued to learn and get to know our funding partner- the MDA- and to see how to best let them know what our Commission does, and how we benefit the State. They are appreciative of what we have done, and have funded us as requested for the last 2 years (no cuts).

Next, we identified 2 new interpretive centers for MS- Leland, MS for the Mississippi Wildlife Museum and Grand Gulf in Port Gibson. The process took place to meet with them, have them apply, and those request have been submitted for approval to the Commission

Once we were appointed to host the 2019 semi-annual meeting, we began work on preparing for that meeting, and spent most of the rest of fiscal 2018 working on that.

Current Business:

Finalizing the agenda to send to National to set up contacts and approval. A rough outline for the meeting looks like this:

Tuesday- April 2nd

Board time tbd

9 am - 4 pm

Registration 4-6 pm. Lobby

Welcome reception 5:30 - 7 pm. Can be in shack lobby or delta blues museum

Dinner on your own

Wednesday- April 3rd

8-8:30 committee chair mtg

9am -1 tour levees and lunch friars point museum

If welcome needed 9:30 - 1:30 levee tour

2-4 technical sessions

Possible reception at delta blues 5-7 with dinner at resthaven 7-8:30
Could have speaker briefly discuss Lebanese in delta / diverse cultures

Music at reds and ground zero - on your own

Thursday April 4th- TBD

(We have several ideas but will discuss with National what works best, and how much to include)

We have 2 goals for 2018-2019- 1. To have tear away maps available at all interpretive centers before the next annual meeting. Other states have these, and we think it is a great resource and marketing opportunity for both the Great River Road and for businesses. 2. To set up a passport for the interpretive centers to be able to apply a ink or print stamp for all to collect in a booklet. Again, why reinvent the wheel when other States have used this successfully. We are looking at cost and funding, and again marketing opportunities for companies in those areas.

Going Forward:

1. To have the tear away maps placed in all Interpretive Centers
2. To have a budget and idea of how to implement the passport books and get Interpretive center buy in
3. To Have a Successful and Enjoyable 2019 Semi-annual meeting in Clarksdale
4. To meet our State Senator and former Senator Lott to discuss the Infrastructure week in Washington, D. C. in May, 2019. We have to take advantage of that and use the resources that the speaker mentioned yesterday. We will meet with our Senators before, and I would like to see the MRPC put together a group of 3-4 to go and talk about funds needed for signage, repair, marketing efforts, and to explain the bike race and allow them to use their resources to see the vision, and maybe bring groups together to make it happen.

Mississippi looks forward to another great year, and accomplishing what we know we can, and implementing year 1 of the 10-year plan. Let's Do This!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!