



Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2020  
(draft)

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**Participants:**

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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| -Terri McCullough– Pilot Emeritus       | -Sherry Quamme (WI-MRPC)                 |
| -Anne Lewis – Pilot                     | -Nani Bhowmik - ERA                      |
| -Martin Graber (IA-MRPC)                | -Pat Audirsch – Culture and Heritage     |
| -Sharon Calcote (LA-MRPC & Marketing)   | -John Anfinson – Culture and Heritage    |
| -Norma Pruitt (Pilot Pro Tem & KY-MRPC) | -Francis Schelfhout – Transportation     |
| -Holly Cain-Secretary                   | -Lindsey Killebrew - Transportation      |
| -Craig Mitckes (IL-MRPC)                | -Sabrina Chandler - ERA                  |
| -Derick Biglane (Treasurer & MS-MRPC)   | -Susanne Thiede-Barnet – National Office |
| -Mark Kross (MO-MRPC)                   | -Lisa Walsh                              |

Pilot called the meeting to order at 9:04am and a quorum was present.

- **Past Meeting Minutes from 9/15/20** - Motion to approve by IL. Second by WI. Motion carried.
- **Financial Update** – Treasurer asked National Office to provide a review the financial reports. Motion was made by IA to show actual state dues received instead of showing what was invoiced. Second by WI. KY requested that we rename the meeting miscellaneous line item to note it was a third-party expense. Motion carried.
- **National Office Activity Report** –National Office reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter national office activity report followed by an overview of the fall virtual national meeting, including attendee survey results.
- **Technical Committee Reports** – Transportation chairs shared that they are awaiting word on AAR announcements, which could occur any day now. They continue to develop their committee page on the members.com site. Their other priorities include way-finding signage, the ability to produce maps with points of interest through GIS and providing letters of support for grants along the GRR. The committee plans to meet in January of 2021.

Marketing chair indicated that they have been busy with monthly meetings. Their focus in 2021 will be on AAR. They will be involved in marketing the maps and the new websites but the leadership for these projects will move to the executive committee and other technical committees. Great River Road Month and social media advertising will continue in 2021.

Culture and Heritage asked for more representation on their committee since they didn't even have a quorum at their last meeting when they reviewed two interpretive center nominations. They will be looking at interpretive center qualifications and possibly different types of centers, such as an orientation center.

The ERA chairs also requested more state participation. Their focus will be working on intrinsic resources and looking at state contacts that could serve on this committee. They can provide letters of support and resource information to communities interested in the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

- **Budget 2021** –Pilot, Treasurer and National Office reviewed the budget draft indicating that the numbers are an effort to balance our budget and the uncertainty that Covid brings to travel and awaiting the AAR designation. This is a working budget and right now the expenses are greater than the revenue. WI asked if we can charge a registration fee for the virtual meetings and if we should include \$15,000 for each state knowing that all states have not paid their full dues in the past. On the question of listing all 10 states in Income column on the budget, Pilot indicated it's important to show as a measure of what full state dues payment means and to show the importance state participation to the organization. National office indicated that there is an anticipated write-off included in the budget expenses column. On the question of charging for virtual meetings, several states registered a wish to keep them free and open to greater participation. National office pointed to the fact there are no dollars in the budget dedicated to a map reprint since travel is on hold and there is still an inventory available for use. AR motion to approve the budget. IL second. Motion carried.
- **Standard Policies** – Pilot requested feedback to continue with the next agenda topic or create an email outlining the topic since the meeting had already exceeded two hours and another item remained on the agenda. The board voiced approval to look at this topic by email and continue with the Annual Review of the National Office

**Annual Review of the National Office** – The National Office was asked to leave the meeting. Minutes reflect the following discussion and next steps: The motion by Pilot Pro Tem Committee Chair was seconded by ERA Co-Chair Bhowmik, “The NO Review Committee recommends actions for addition and modification to the Addendum Scope of Work for newfound services and to reprioritize an increasing workload relating to usage and implementation of new technology to enhance MRPC’s reputation.”

Discussion followed. Comments reflected the need to get minutes and agendas out more quickly. One discussion focused on the balance between organizational management and marketing for the national office. Board members were requested to weigh in via a process Pilot Pro Tem outlined. Lisa Walsh was suggested by Martin Graber as an addition to the committee. After Lisa agreed, she was added to the committee.

The committee requested all board members send their input during December. That input was to be focused on ideas for work priorities and organizational services that should be added or removed from P and B’s Scope of Work Addendum for 2021. During January the Chair and the committee will develop a new addendum and will seek agreement from the board. It will be presented as complete at the February Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 am CST.