

**Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Culture and Heritage Committee
Quincy, Illinois
April 12, 2018
Minutes**

The Culture and Heritage Committee convened at 1:45 p.m. on April 12, 2018 at the Quality Inn in Quincy, Illinois, meeting first with the Marketing Committee. The committee reconvened on its own with Sheronne Mulry chairing.

Present: Sheronne Mulry, Minnesota, and Ruth Hawkins, Arkansas, Co-Chairs; Joe St. Columbia, Arkansas; Martin Graber, Iowa; Carissa Viniard, Kentucky; Frank Nickell, Missouri; Faye Wilkinson, Mississippi; and Dennis Donath, Wisconsin.

The Corridor Management Plan was discussed extensively. The next step for the Culture and Heritage Committee will be to take the Interpretive Center inventories that have been done, based on themes best represented, and convert them to stories of the river. Among the ideas that were discussed:

- “Flash Cards” with different themes on one side, and associated interpretive centers on the other. (Several states are now doing this.)
- Passports: great way to move people from point to point along the Great River Road.
- Interpretive Center trails developed along the various themes.

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEM: Representatives from each state should submit ideas for three major stories of the river to Frank Nickell, along with suggestions for who best can tell that story. We intend to compile those stories, then videotape them for the website and/or other sources. (None longer than three to five minutes). Examples from Arkansas: the lost city of Napoleon (the Mississippi’s lost Atlantis), the Sultana Disaster (greatest maritime disaster in history of the nation), The Murrell Gang and other pirates along the Mississippi. Story ideas are due to Frank by May 31. fnickell@semo.edu

There was discussion of how and under what circumstances to de-designate Interpretive Centers. It was decided that only the states could make these decisions, as each must carefully weigh whether they continue to meet appropriate criteria OR whether they are helping meet our goals in some way. (i. e. in some cases, we may need them more than they need us.)

We encourage the national office to proceed with ordering signage requested by states for new interpretive centers that have agreed to pay the costs. Last call for states to order!

We request that state chairs ensure that all Interpretive Centers are included on the proposed revised map before it goes to print.

Grand Gulf State Park in Port Gibson, Mississippi, has been left off of our Interpretive Center themes inventory. (Should be marked for Nature and History significance.)

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.