



## Mississippi River Parkway Commission

701 East Washington Avenue, Suite 202  
Madison, WI 53703



### MRPC Culture and Heritage Committee Minutes Sept. 15, 2016

The Culture and Heritage Committee convened at 2 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2016 at the Natchez Grand Hotel in Natchez.

Present: Ruth Hawkins, Chair, Arkansas; Nanette Clark, Mississippi; Ann Ventress, Mississippi; Martin Graber, Iowa; Terri McCullough, Arkansas; Pat Audirsch, Arkansas; Faye Wilkinson, Mississippi; Dennis Donath, Wisconsin; Anne Lewis, Minnesota; and Diana Threadgill, Tennessee.

Four new Interpretive Centers were unanimously approved to be forwarded on to the Board. These include

- WW II Japanese American Internment Museum, McGehee, AR (Nominated by Arkansas, Seconded by Tennessee)
- Oliver Kelley Farm, Minnesota Historical Society, Elk River, MN (Nominated by Minnesota, Seconded by Arkansas)
- Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site, Little Falls, MN (Nominated by Minnesota, Seconded by Arkansas)
- Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission, aka Grand Gulf Park, Port Gibson, MS (Nominated by Mississippi, Seconded by Minnesota)

State updates were provided, including a report from Nanette Clark on the Mississippi Welcome Center at Woodville, one of our Interpretive Centers. She noted that they are seeing a major increase in travelers, particularly baby boomers, driving the Highway 61 Great River Road route between Woodville and Memphis.

Site visits reports on Interpretive Centers were reviewed from Arkansas, Iowa, and Wisconsin. There remains a problem with front line personnel being knowledgeable about the Great River Road, as well as some centers that do not carry maps or brochures. These problems should be addressed by utilizing the PowerPoint staff training that has been developed and by ensuring that centers have an appropriate supply of the new brochure/maps of the Great River Road. There still are states that either are not making site visits or are not reporting their results. State commissions should be reminded that these visits are critical to ensuring that the Great River Road is being adequately represented by its Interpretive Centers. From an Interpretive Center perspective, Nanette suggested that it would be helpful for IC's to receive some sort of e-mail correspondence at least once a month so that the Great River Road remains top of mind for IC's.

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The NatGeo tourism site was discussed, and a list of Interpretive Centers was provided that may not yet been nominated, or may not yet be active on the site. Members from each state were asked to check on any from their state on the list so that all can be identified and tagged on the site as Interpretive Centers.

In preparation for development of the 10-state Corridor Management Plan, the committee began looking carefully at our adopted Interpretive Themes and at our Interpretive Centers to determine whether/how our themes are being carried out and to place greater focus and emphasis on interpretive themes up and down the river. Two products came out of this discussion:

1. The committee recommends to the Board that there be some slight modification in the wording of some of the 11 sub-themes for greater clarity. Also, the sub-theme addressing the natural aspects of the river (sustaining plants and animals) should be separated out, as opposed to lumping it in with the river's impact on people. The people aspects are addressed in other sub-themes. Recommended changes are attached.
2. The Committee has begun to classify which of the Interpretive Centers BEST represent the main theme and the 11 sub-themes. We ask each commission to take a look at the Interpretive Centers in their state and identify which theme (or themes) each center best represents. While many can justify elements of many or all of the themes, only the top one to three MAIN stories that the center tells should be identified. Some preliminary work on possible classifications has been done as a start and should be appropriately refined by each state. This matrix is attached.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

## Great River Road Main Theme and Sub-Themes (Suggested Edits)

Overall Theme: The Mississippi River is the flow of life, shaping land and peoples.

1. The Mississippi River is a ribbon of life ~~for people,~~ *sustaining* plants and animals
- ~~2. The river has changed over time through intervention of both man and nature. As the river has influenced people, people have influenced the river.~~
3. The Mississippi River has nurtured prehistoric and historic cultures
4. The Mississippi River inspires a variety of folk life, literary, fine art, and musical forms.
5. The Mississippi River has profoundly shaped American history.
6. The strategic importance of the Mississippi River has ~~resulted~~ *played a role* in conflict between nations and peoples.
7. Mississippi River architecture reflects distinctive styles affected by cultural and natural resources.
8. The Mississippi River is one of the world's great rivers noted for its beauty, grandeur and diversity.
9. The history of Mississippi River transportation is a dramatic story reflecting the river's economic and commercial importance.
10. Mississippi River towns and cities reflect mid-19<sup>th</sup> century life.
11. The Mississippi River is a working river sustaining many industries.

**DRAFT -- Great River Road Interpretive Centers--Main Themes**

Center	City	State	Main Themes														
			1-Life	1-Nature	2-Changing	3-Pre-History	4-Arts	5-History	6-Conflict	7-Architecture	8-Beauty	9-Transportation	10-Towns	11-Industry			
Arkansas Post National Memorial	Gillett	AR						x									
Delta Cultural Center	Helena	AR					x		x								
Hampson Archeological Museum State Park	Wilson	AR				x											
Helena Museum of Phillips Co	Helena	AR							x						x		
Lake Chicot State Park	Lake Village	AR		x	x												
Lakeport Plantation Museum	Lake Village	AR								x							
Mississippi County Historical & Genealogical Society/Museum	Osceola	AR													x		
Mississippi River State Park	Marianna	AR	x	x													
Parkin Archeological State Park	Parkin	AR				x											
White River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center	Saint Charles	AR		x													
Buffalo Bill Museum & River Pilots Pier	LeClaire	IA													x		
E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center	Dubuque	IA													x		x
Effigy Mounds National Monument	Harpers Ferry	IA				x											
George M. Verity River Museum	Keokuk	IA	x								x						
Guttenberg Fish Hatchery	Guttenberg	IA															x
Hurstville Interpretive Center	Maquoketa	IA													x		
Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center	Camanche	IA	x														
Motor Mill Historic Site	Elkader	IA															x
Muscatine History and Industry Center	Muscatine	IA															x
Nahant Marsh Education Center	Davenport	IA		x													
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium	Dubuque	IA	x														
Old Fort Madison	Fort Madison	IA								x		x					
Pine Creek Grist Mill	Muscatine	IA															x
Putnam Museum of History & Natural Science	Davenport	IA													x		
Sawmill Museum	Clinton	IA															x
Toolesboro Mounds & Museum	Wapello	IA				x											
Black Hawk State Historic Site	Rock Island	IL							x								
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site	Collinsville	IL				x											
Cairo Custom House Museum	Cairo	IL								x				x			
Fort de Chartres State Historic Site	Prairie du Rocher	IL								x							
Mississippi River Visitor Center	Rock Island	IL	x														
National Great Rivers Museum	East Alton	IL	x														
Pere Marquette State Park Visitor Center	Grafton	IL		x													
Pierre Menard State Historic Site/ Fort Kaskaskia	Ellis Grove	IL								x							
Villa Kathrine/Friends of the Castle	Quincy	IL								x							
Columbus-Belmont State Park	Columbus	KY								x		x					
Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site	Wickliffe	KY				x											
Jean Lafite National Historical Park and Preserve	New Orleans	LA							x	x							
Louisiana State Museum	New Orleans	LA									x						
LSU Rural Life Museum & Windrush Gardens	Baton Rouge	LA							x								
Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site	Plaquemine	LA				x											
Port Hudson State Historic Site	Jackson	LA								x							
Poverty Point State Historic Site	Pioneer	LA					x										
The Historic New Orleans Collection	New Orleans	LA									x						
West Feliciana Historical Society Museum	St. Francisville	LA									x						
Forest History Center/Minnesota Historical Society	Grand Rapids	MN		x										x			x
Itasca State Park	Park Rapids	MN	x	x													
Mill City Museum	Minneapolis	MN															x
Minnesota History Center	St. Paul	MN	x													x	
Minnesota Marine Art Museum	Winona	MN					x										
Minnesota National River & Recreational Area/Fort Snelling	St. Paul	MN	x							x							
National Eagle Center	Wabasha	MN		x													
Winona Co Historical Society	Winona	MN															x
Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center	Cape Girardeau	MO		x													
City of Clarksville Visitor Center	Clarksville	MO				x											
Howard & Joyce Wood Education & Visitor Center at Columbia B	St. Louis	MO		x													
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (The Gateway Arch & O	St. Louis	MO								x							
Mark Twain Museum Interpretative Center	Hannibal	MO					x										
New Madrid Historical Museum	New Madrid	MO				x				x							
Sikeston Depot Museum	Sikeston	MO					x										
St. Genevieve Welcome Center	St. Genev	MO									x						
Trail of Tears State Park	Jackson	MO								x							
Blues Museum	Clarksdale	MS					x										
Lower Mississippi River Museum & Interpretive Center	Vicksburg	MS	x														
Mississippi Visitors Center-Woodville	Woodville	MS														x	
Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau	Natchez	MS	x							x							
River Road, Delta Queen Welcome Center	Greenville	MS								x							
Tunica River Museum	Tunica	MS	x														
Vicksburg National Military Park Visitor Center	Vicksburg	MS									x						
C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa	Memphis	TN					x										
Mississippi River Museum at Mud Island River Park	Memphis	TN	x														
Reelfoot Lake State Park Visitor Center	Tiptonville	TN															
Fort Crawford Museum	Prairie du Chien	WI									x						
Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center	Prescott	WI	x	x													
Potosi Brewing Company	Potosi	WI															x
Riverside Museum	La Crosse	WI	x														
Stonefield Historic Site	Cassville	WI									x						
Villa Louis	Prairie du Chien	WI															