



Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2021  
(draft)

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**Participants:**

Terri M - Pilot Emeritus

Anne L - Pilot

Norma P - Pilot Pro Tem

Holly C - Secretary

Francis S - Transportation

John A – MN Proxy and Culture and Heritage

Pat A – AR Proxy and Culture and Heritage

Sabrina C - ERA

Mike M - TN

Craig M - IL

Sherry Q – WI

Martin G - IA

Susanne TB - National Office (NO)

Meeting was called to order at 9:01am

Motion to approve 12/10/21 minutes by AR. Second by MN. Motion approved.

Motion to approve 2021 financial reports through December by WI. Second by IL. Motion approved.

Motion to approve 2022 financial reports through February by IL. Second by MN. Motion approved.

Pilot referenced her written report in the meeting packet. There were no questions.

Pilot referenced two written items from the Executive Committee's in the meeting packet. The first proposed resolution for board consideration is the MRPC Expense Documentation. **Motion to approve by Pilot and second by IL the following.** *MRPC business – and that of its attending commissioners, guests and partners – will be conducted openly and honestly and with full accountability to member states. Under no circumstances will duplicate or erroneous statements, invoices or receipts be supplied by vendors or lodging properties to document reimbursement for any 10-state Mississippi River Parkway Commission meetings. Efforts to obtain this kind of documentation will be construed as fraud and/or theft and will not be supported by anyone acting in an official capacity for the MRPC. In addition, if such activity is observed, it should be reported to a member of the MRPC Executive Committee immediately. If necessary, such attempts by a commissioner or other attendee will be reported to the state authorizing agency. Furthermore, guest attendance at MRPC national and special meetings will be charged uniformly as guest attendees, regardless of marital or familial status. This will not apply in situations where speakers are officially compensated for their participation.* Discussion began. IA questioned why we have this policy. Pilot indicated that a situation occurred previously and came to the attention of the Executive Committee, which warranted the proposed resolution. **Motion approved as written.**

The second proposed resolution for board consideration and action is the MRPC Work and Volunteer Environment. **Motion to approve by Pilot and second by AR the following.** *Everyone – whether staff, contract worker or volunteer – deserves to work in an atmosphere that is open and conducive to sharing information and working toward common goals. Changes to state's laws regarding workplace harassment reflect an expanded definition of workplace harassment. Virtual meetings now fall under the heading of the workplace. MRPC must ensure that contracted staff and volunteers, when acting on our behalf, are functioning in an environment free of harassment and disrespect. To ensure that MRPC operates in an open and constructive atmosphere, whether in person or virtually, the MRPC Board of Directors requests that meetings,*

*communication and events be conducted with respect, consideration and inclusivity. If a state encounters a problem in communication, feels a request of MRPC has not been satisfactorily addressed, or feels it has not been treated respectfully, the state chair should immediately contact an elected officer of the MRPC board in writing, either by email or by regular mail. The contacted member will make the executive committee aware of the situation immediately and decide on next steps.* Discussion began. MN suggested an edit to second sentence, "Changes to A state's laws regarding..." MN requested we develop a policy that is more concrete on boundaries. KY stated this is applicable of all MRPC functions, including committee meetings, stating one would go to their state chair and then contact an executive committee member. IA asked what this policy means and if raising a voice would apply and how will it be enforced. WI said there are helpful points and raises the level of what states should be doing. WI suggested we share with our state commissions. **Motion approved as written.**

Susanne (NO) reviewed the quarter 4 activity report located in the meeting packet.

TN provided some highlights of the fall annual meeting in Memphis at the Peabody Hotel, including the opening night welcome reception at the Memphis Redbirds minor league baseball game. The Annual Meeting will start for the board on Wednesday, September 7 with a strategic planning session from 9a-3pm. The general sessions on Thursday and Friday will include a focus on strengthening state commissions and committee work.

Other business - TN mentioned landscape byway in the Memphis area to avoid non-invasive species and their new tik tok campaign about anti littering.

WI staff are talking about a pollinator garden at a TN rest stop.

Culture and Heritage committee mentioned their new interpretive center checklist that asks "How we can help them." Right now interpretive center nominations are inconsistent.

ERA committee is working with pollinator training in states like WI and hope to inspire other states to take steps toward pollinators.

Transportation continues to work on mapping and is getting further. He noted that they are looking at getting MRT signed in Wisconsin so they can work toward a national bike route.

P+B won a Gold Addy award for the MRC website development.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23am

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