



Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

In Collinsville, Illinois

In attendance: Martin G (IA), Derick B (MS and Treasurer), Sherry Q (WI), Joe S (AR), Edmond M (TN), Mark K (MO), Jim L (KY proxy), John A (Pilot Pro Tem and C&H), Pat A (C&H), Holly C (Sec), Norma P (Pilot), Anne L (Pilot Emeritus and MN Proxy), Craig M (IL), Francis (Trans), Sabrina (ERA), Nani B (ERA), Sen. Housley, Scott Williams, Susanne TB (NO)

The Meeting was called to order by the Pilot at 3:05pm on 9/20/23.

The Pilot called for review of the 6/9/23 meeting minutes. Motion to approve by MO and second by MN. Motion approved.

The Treasurer reviewed the financial reports and made a motion to approve and second by WI. Motion approved.

The National Office reviewed several items beginning with the national meeting overview, highlighted by more than 15 new attendees. There was a reminder for states to inform their interpretive centers in need of new signage to complete the online survey. The more we order the better the price for everyone. There is also an online pollinator survey that will help us inventory what exists along the GRR. Lastly, the national office is working to modify and resubmit another national scenic byway marketing grant application. Arkansas has again agreed to allow MRPC to apply through their DOT. Motion was made by WI and second by MN to approve submission of a website and app marketing NSB grant application and submit through ARDOT. Motion approved.

ERA chair provided an update on the partnership opportunity with Rotary International/ Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group. Sherry (WI) gave kudos to ERA committee and 10 states for the reviewing the resolution to make this the longest pollinator trail in the world. MRCTI was in Bemidji and they are also partnering with Rotary so this is a wide effort and we should publicize the resolution combined with Rotary. MN made a motion to collaborate on Operation Pollination through RA committee taking part of ESRAG. Second by WI. This would align us with Rotary. Motion approved.

Transportation chair (Francis) said Mike (TN) will be presenting the pollinator playbook. He also made a request to get all state DOTs involved. The discussion continued with MRT and taking over their liabilities or having them dissolve. We want an agreement to eventually turn it into a US bike route. We need a budget to take care of the trademark. Motion by MN to support Transportation committee's efforts to understand and gather the rights to MRT. WI second. Edmund to look into TN's laws with dysfunctional or not after a given period of time. Approval to support this effort using other committee's budget money totaling \$1,500 from Culture and Heritage, ERA and Transportation. WI motions to reallocate funds. Secretary seconds. Motion carries.

Culture and Heritage chair (John) shared that the committee will be reviewing two Interpretive Center applications. Discovery Park in Tennessee has been working with the committee for a few months and their executive director is in attendance at the annual meeting. The other application is from the Wildlife Museum in Mississippi. The committee will be discussing checklists and having them be part of continuing a relationship rather than a check up. The committee wants to figure out how to engage Interpretive Centers.

The Pilot spoke about the Delta Leadership Institute (DLI) (it includes all states except MN, IA, WI) who recently met in Paducah. Their programs are different but there may be an opportunity for a grant to run some of our programs. They asked us to provide a letter telling them how much and what we want it for. Motion by MN to approve writing a letter to DLI asking for funding for the website that engages communities more. Second by Secretary. Motion carried.

Sherry (WI) shared an initiative underway in WI, LaCrosse Discovery Center, that is in preliminary stages looking for support from the board now or later. This campus is on the GRR using Excel Energy properties \$1.2 million purchase and further the planning of all 10 states replaces what was once the River Center in downtown La Crosse Interpretive Center.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.