

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, March 10, 2023

In attendance: Derick B (MS and Treasurer), Edmond M (TN), Mark K (MO), Jim L (KY), Sherry Q (WI), John A (Pilot Pro Tem and C&H), Pat A (AR and C&H), Martin (IA), Holly (IL and Sec), Norma P (Pilot), Anne L (MN and Pilot Emeritus), Francis (Trans), Sabrina (ERA), Nani (ERA), Chris M, Susanne TB

Meeting was called to order by the Pilot at 9:03 am on 3/10/23.

Pilot requested approval of minutes from 12/9/2022. Motion to approve was made by MO and second by MN. Minutes are approved.

The Treasurer presented the financial report of 12/31/2022. Treasurer noted we are transitioning to a new bookkeeper. The previous bookkeeper has been with us during Pilch & Barnett's tenure, and she retired. Treasurer motioned to approve the financial report. MN seconded the motion and the report was approved.

Pilot and National office shared the dates for the fall annual meeting in Alton, Illinois, September 20-22. The board meeting will occur the afternoon of September 20 with the welcome reception for all attendees that evening. The meeting will conclude at noon on September 22. Plan for a full day of meetings on September 21. Spring meetings will take the share of weekly webinars each Tuesday in April. We're finalizing topics but they'll follow each of the committee subject areas with speakers invited to share information with a Q&A opportunity at the end. Each webinar will last up to one hour. We will record and make them available online too.

Transportation shared information collected from states regarding EV charging stations. We found charging stations within 5 miles of the GRR. The committee is recommending that marketing consider including the national links for EV charging stations so we can show the GRR as an EV-friendly route. Additionally, we're looking at collecting an inventory of Interpretive Center signage that we can share with Culture & Heritage. We spent time talking about pollinators and TN has offered to spend time this summer (with help from an intern) to create a playbook for states. Lastly, we continue our discussion of MRT and request a sub-committee to help research the status of trademark, FHWA sign plates, etc.

Culture and Heritage continues working toward development of a model Interpretive Center application and encourages all states to complete their Interpretive Center checklists. The committee is recommending that if a checklist is not completed over a three-year period, that Interpretive Center could be removed.

ERA is excited to share information on National Pollinator Week, June 19-25 and is requesting a proclamation from the board as an engagement tool to highlight the GRR and pollinators. One WI commissioner (Roz Schick) is active in Rotary and taken an interest in pursuing a relationship in pollinator conversation and outreach between the two organizations. We will look at Interpretive Centers with pollinator gardens. The MRT connection Transportation mentioned

ties recreation (bicycling). We're seeing cruises offering land excursions on the GRR tapping into agriculture such as dairy farm tours, cheese factory tours and fish hatcheries.

There was a motion by MN to approve the resolution for National Pollinator Week Along the GRR with the addition of the 10 states. Second by MO. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26am.