

**Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Culture & Heritage Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 21, 2023**

In attendance: John A (MN), Anne L (MN), Pat A (AR), James L (MO), Jim J (IA), Sabrina C (WI), Francis S (WI), Edmond M (TN), Adam L (AR), Ann G (IA), Sherry Q (WI), Joe S (AR), Susanne TB (National Office)

1. Interpretive Centers

- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Visitor Center, Onalaska, Wisconsin
 - Sabrina Chandler provided an overview of the application and Sherry Quamme added the support from the WI-MRPC. Chair added that the application and Sabrina's overview are another example of a model IC application.
 - Reminder at last meeting, we will review applications in a rolling review and approval process starting with this meeting.
 - Jim J makes a motion to approve. Pat A seconds the motion. Motion approved.
- Susanne reviewed signage needs. We'll include in Q4 newsletter and order signage after the first of the year
- John reviewed the status of the remaining IC applications in progress
 - Cold War Museum, Arkansas - no updates
 - Wildlife Heritage Center, Mississippi - no updates
 - Tom Lee Park - Update and discussion of what this IC application might look like. John spent time here on a recent visit and was impressed with the size of the riverfront park.
 - We should remove Mud Island from our promotional materials. We need to review all ICs to make sure they are still open to the public.

2. Interpretive Centers - Online Application Discussion

- Leave up or take down? Voted at September meeting to take down.
- What do we need to ensure that we receive an adequate application online?

- Provide the example Discovery Park of America application and show it as a model application.

Perhaps a short version online as step 1 and then we'll follow up as another version that is longer. We need the criteria listed first. Here are the criteria. Here are the model applications. Here is the application.

Update online language to include steps - 1 - meet with your state, - 2 - review criteria - 3 - review the model application - 4 - submit your application

Applications are due 30 days prior to a meeting to be reviewed.

3. Francis S, Transportation committee chair shared information on the inventory they're doing for IC wayfinding (brown signs) signage. Parcel information, access, parking. This type of signage provides easiest inform to reach our ICs.

4. Checklist - Discuss at next meeting

- Remove Covid 19 questions from online version
- Remove: What do you need from us? Redundant of question above.
- Remove: Have you worked with the MRPC in the past? Requires an explanation.
- Add new questions?
 - On pollinator gardens or natural areas that provide pollinator habitat. Y or N
 - Funding Sources: Optional selections:
 - Government (Local, State or Federal)
 - Private
 - Non-Profit Donations
 - Principal Staffing: Permanent or volunteer
 - Volunteer Staffing: Percentage of staff capacity
- How to put this online with past year's form so that all ICs have to do is update new information.

5. How to engage ICs with each other - Discuss at next meeting

- How we convey our mission to ICs and how do we become familiar with theirs.