

Culture and Heritage Committee Meeting
Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Minutes
July 16, 2024 10 a.m.

Attending:

John Anfinson, Chair
Pat Audirsch, Co-chair
Mark Kross
James Lundgren
Ann Geiger
Anne Lewis
David Kelliher
Katie Hammond

The zoom meeting was conducted by chairman, John Anfinson.

Two nominations for potential interpretive centers were reviewed:

The nomination for the Muscatine County Conservation Environmental Learning Center was presented by Katie Hammond, Director. Ann Geiger added positive comments about the multiple interpretations provided by the center. Positive comments were offered by committee members. John provided a few technical suggestions for application clarity.

Consensus was that the center should be approved at the annual meeting in September when more states would be represented at the committee meeting.

The second nomination was from the Memphis River Parks Partnership. If accepted this outdoor interpretive center would be a new kind of interpretive center for MRPC. John and others expressed enthusiasm for the possibility of an outdoor interpretive center but the application needed more clarification about which parks in the partnership were included, how much actual interpretation was available to the visitor, how the “rangers” provide interpretation in the river parks, etc.

John has reached out to the director of development of the Memphis River Parks Partnership to offer suggestions for clarifying areas of interpretation and getting the application up to the new standards for applying to become an MRPC Interpretive Center. If resubmitted with issues addressed, the application could also be considered at the September meeting.

Anne Lewis said the Partnership is to be commended for their hard work in making such progress in improving the Memphis Park system.

Next meeting will be at the September meeting.