

**Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Culture & Heritage Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 21, 2025

In Attendance:

- Anne Lewis, MN
- Francis Schelfhout, WI (Transportation Chair)
- Sherry Quamme, WI
- Pat Audirsch, AR (Chair)
- John Anfinson, MN (Chair)
- Adam Long, AR
- Mark Kross, MO
- Anne Geiger (IA)
- Dave Kelliher (MN)
- Susanne Thiede-Barnet (National Office)

Francis Schelfhout, Transportation Committee co-chair, joined the C&H Committee to give a presentation on his committee's work to ensure adequate signage to Interpretive Centers (IC) in all 10 states. This is a long-term goal that is part of the Corridor Management Plan to have signing standards in place. For example, if on the GRR, three signs to cover, northbound, southbound and at the IC. The goal is to update the CMP by the Annual Meeting in fall of 2025. The Transportation committee is using tax parcel maps and Google maps, which means much of the work could be completed by a non-transportation person. How can the C+H committee assist in this effort? What's the status of directional signage? How do we get signage up to standard if it is not. Funding for signage varies from state-to-state. This discussion took the majority of the committee's time.

We discussed the America 250 recognition and potential ties to our work. We agreed there could be some synergistic opportunities on promotion and identity. A number of members have weighed in with good ideas on how to do so. Some states, like Arkansas and Minnesota are working on this already, as we suspect most states are. This provides the C&H Committee with a great chance to work with the Marketing Committee, as well. Perhaps, we could issue a challenge to see who could produce the best short video highlighting what an IC is doing for the America 250 recognition.

Mississippi Wildlife Museum nomination status. The committee is waiting on them to provide a much more substantive application

Tom Lee Park status. The committee is waiting on them also to provide something that fits our requirements better. Right now, they are dominantly an outdoor side, with very little indoor interpretation. We are still willing to explore the idea of an outdoor IC, but it would have to meet the interpretive requirements or an indoor IC.

The committee discussed a virtual spring meeting for ICs and using the allocated budget to meet needs financially. The invitation would be sent via snail mail, email and by telephone from the national office. Additionally, we would ask committee members and state commissioners to personally invite ICs to participate in one of the sessions. The committee suggested offering the session at two different times as well as recording. More discussion about the agenda and invitations to follow.