



Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 16, 2018
Princeton Community Center
428 S. River Drive
Princeton, IA

MRPC Call to order

Vice Chair Martin Graber called the meeting to order.

Attendance

Roll call was taken with a quorum of the members present.

Commissioners: _____

Martin Graber, Lisa Walsh, Barb Besch, Jenna Pollock, Jay Schweitzer, Clyde Bradley, Ann Meeker, and Ann Geiger

Tech Members: _____

Mary Stahlhut, Iowa DOT Byways Program

Others:

Jane Regan, Foundation Treasurer

Welcome and introductions

Graber introduced the new commissioners: Clyde Bradley, Clinton; and Ann Meeker, Muscatine.

Minutes

On motion by Pollock and seconded by Schweitzer, the minutes of the June 6, 2018 were approved.

Treasurer's report

Motion to approve the final 2019 fiscal year's budget by Schweitzer and seconded by Walsh. Motion carried.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the 2020 budget proposal. Next year's budget needs to be submitted before November. The Commission will discuss it at the October meeting. Schweitzer moved to move an extra \$250 to the travel line. Walsh seconded the motion and it carried.

Interpretive Center Reports: None

Marketing Committee

Besch gave a report on the national marketing meeting. The national office is concentrating on the lower half of the road with the southern states. She also reported the commission can get state maps free except for shipping if the dues are paid.

Geiger said everyone should email her as to how many cases of maps they need and she will find out shipping.

Byways guide is updated and needs to be printed – hopefully this week.

Passports were passed out and are first to go to the interpretive centers. No gift is associated with them when filled, but if individual centers want to give a prize that is up to them. The Commission thanked Besch for her work getting them completed.

Geiger apologized to the Commission. She said she understood the banners had been sent to the State with the revision suggested at the last meeting. Stahlhut said they have not been received. Geiger will follow up.

Regan presented both the metal and ceramic mugs to the commission. The ceramic mugs are made with Mississippi mud and are safe for human use, but not dishwasher or microwave safe. She said they could be used as an incentive gift or as a fund-raiser for the interpretive centers. A suggested price would be \$22-\$25 each.

Stahlhut said if the mugs were to be sold, they would have to be approved by the DOT because state money was used to purchase them. Regan asked if there were parameters which were available to the commission to help make the decision as to how to pay for the mugs. Stahlhut was not able to contact anyone at the DOT to provide any information during the meeting and did not have the information. The Commission requested information as soon as possible as to whether or not the metal mugs could be sold or how they could be used.

Meeker moved to request the foundation fund the \$1800 ceramic mugs and to request the DOT to fund the metal mugs out of the MPRC budget funded by the DOT within DOT guidelines and to give direction to the commission. Bradley seconded the motion and it carried.

Transportation – Nothing.

Environment, Recreation, Heritage – Nothing.

Chairman's Report

Graber reminded commissioners to submit county lists for 2018 National MRPC Year of Art, Culture, and Music on the Great River Road.

Graber reviewed the July National MRPC board meeting report. He distributed an agenda from the national meeting. National dues are due on the calendar year. September 1, 2018 state reports due, the distinguished service report due, interpretive centers reports are due, honorary membership nominations are due.

The Commission placed Edith Pfeffer's name for consideration for the Honorary Membership Award. Meeker moved to present her name for nomination and Besch seconded. Motion carried. Graber will fill out the nomination form.

Graber said it would be a good idea for Commissioners to meet with the Governor. Regan said that has traditionally been done in August. Graber will follow up.

Who will man a booth – if there is one – at the Iowa State Fair this year. Walsh volunteered. A discussion was held as to what is needed and the tear sheet would be given out, and a banner is needed and info to pass out. Consider inviting the CVVB's. Stahlhut will let the Commission know the dates identified for all the byways to have a booth at the fair. Motion to attend the fair for one day and pay \$250 for the entry fee by Schweitzer and seconded by Meeker. Motion carried.

Ex-Official Member Reports

Mary Stahlhut, Iowa DOT, will follow up on how the drink containers can be used regarding State funding. Passports were free for the first printing to see how popular they are. After that the marketing committee can look at it and see how many more we need and how they will be funded.

The Commission asked where the latest economic impact regarding the Road was located. At the bottom of the Travel Iowa website is the economic impact of the travel on the Great River Road. Regan said the report was going to be completed every five years. She said the Commission needed that impact statement more often than every five years.

Discussion

Graber suggested the commission look at the plan and decide the best way to move forward. The Commission should decide on a project for the year based on the Plan and move forward

Future meeting schedule

The next meeting will be in October on October 15th which is the Monday before national meeting. The Commission discussed of phone meetings in between. Graber also suggested a telephonic meeting between quarterly meetings. Still working with DOT as to how to do it. ICN may be the way to do it.

Meeting adjourned

Ann Geiger
Secretary