



Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Meeting, 10:00 a.m. July 24, 2024  
Princeton Community Center  
River Drive, Princeton

**DRAFT**

Chairman Martin Graber called the meeting to order.

Present: Paul Carroll, Paula Mayer, Katie Hammond, Roger Thomas, and Ann Geiger

Absent: Lisa Walsh, and Jim Janett Lesley Webster (resigned)

Others Present: Emily Whaley, DOT; Kevin Firnstahl

**Items Added to the Agenda**

Hammond reported on meeting with Heritage and Culture regarding the Environmental Learning Center at Discovery Park in Muscatine to become an ICenter. After a discussion, it was decided to unanimously approve the application at the national meeting in September. Hammond asked if the commission could go ahead with the passport printing because there are ICenters which are out of them. If the Heritage Center is not approved, it will not matter, since the passport is an Iowa only document.

Mayer briefly reported on a future plan for our website and will have a conversation at the next meeting. She said some of the ICenters are out of passports and would like to get them done for the summer season. Motion to approve a NTE \$8,000 for 20,000 for passports by Carroll. Thomas seconded the motion and Mayer will get bids and make the order so the ICenters have them for this summer.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Motion by Hammond to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2024 meeting, seconded by Mayer and the motion carried.

**Approval of the Budget**

Since there is approximately \$2,000 left in the budget, Graber encouraged those who want to send in reimbursement for mileage do so. It would be due by August 2 at the latest. Motion by Thomas to approve the Expense Report, seconded by Hammond and the motion carried.

Members planning to attend the September National Meeting in Winona, Minnesota Sept 18-20. As of this time, Walsh, Hammond, Geiger, Graber, Thomas (?), Mayer(?)

**Discussion of Guidance document** Mayer said she would work to get with Whalen to review the document and update.

**Discussion of discontinuance of GRR App**



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The Commission said since everyone is putting things on web, the National is taking MRPC off. Carroll suggested the Commission ask how much the app cost, how much usage it got, and are in support of continuing it.

**Discussion of Administrative Rules** Whalen said the DOT has Chapter 132 in review. To her knowledge no changes would effect the MRPC.

**Chairman's report** Graber asked if the Commission had anything to discuss at the board meeting. One will be the website. What is the possible use of the interest on the invested money of the MRPC. The Commission would like a report on how the \$72,000 paid to Pillch and Barnett is being spent. Geiger said getting a response from them is difficult. The Commission was overcharged for the signs they ordered, and three different individuals called with regard to their delivery with no response. Also, the committee minutes are not posted since last fall. Toolesboro, Lansing, have had money from National in the past. How far out is planning for national meeting.

Graber said the highway to Montrose has been repaired. In his opinion it would not be a long-term fix, but at least it's open. Geiger asked if the Commission might be able to get a grant for a better fix. Graber said he will talk with the mayor.

### **National committee appointments and Reports and**

*Marketing Committee* Mayer said with Webster gone she will get more involved. An Iowa byway is inquiring about the tearsheet for possible copy.

*Transportation* Meeting this August 16. Have not met for several months. It is still trying to get legal control of the MRT logo. However the MTP has big financial liability which factors in.

*Environmental Recreation Agriculture* Still talking about pollinators. Graber said Rotary in Iowa is getting into the pollinator business. Carroll said they are going to do about 10 acres at the Fairport Fish Hatchery over a five-year term. Working with the schools.

*Heritage and Culture* In addition to the Iowa request, there is a request from Memphis River Parks Partnership as well as Iowa's. The Memphis park is still partially under construction, and their "rangers" are more like park police. The park is mainly just that – a park. Anfinson said he will work with them and maybe a new category could be discussed. Hammond said she did not believe the committee was in support. Geiger said if that was the case, every town could have a river park.

**October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Muscatine Discovery Center**