



**Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Meeting, 10:00 a.m. October 13, 2023  
Des Moines County Heritage Center Museum  
501 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Burlington, Iowa**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Martin Graber with Lisa Walsh, Katie Hammond, Lesley Webster, Paula Mayer, Roger Thomas, Jane Regan, and Ann Geiger

Absent: Paul Carroll and Jim Janett

Others Present: Emily Whaley, Iowa DOT; Anne Carroll, and Colton Overton, Heritage Center Director

Overton gave a brief report on the activities of the Heritage Center. He made the Commission aware of the Phelps House, located about two blocks from the Museum, which is open for tours and has the original furniture and equipment from the time it was built which is quite unusual. Regarding the cabin at Crapo Park they have found difficulty with access because of the closure of the Crescent Bridge.

On motion by Walsh with a second by Thomas, the June 23, 2023 minutes were approved with correction of the name Gabby to Gabi by Webster.

On motion by and seconded by Hammond the budget and treasurer's report were approved with a balance of \$32,850.81.

### **Budget discussion**

Reviewing current expenditures Graber wants to send the entire \$15K for national membership.

Motion by Hammond, seconded by Webster, to reallocate \$7,500 back to the budget and pay \$15,000 to National Office for 2023. The motion carried.

Need to replace new signs for \$278 each from the National Office to replace two in Keokuk county which were destroyed by a storm. Walsh said some commissioners will pick them up.

Musicians Pro Shop for sound equipment for \$265.00 for press conference.  
Also \$190 for flyers and Dimensional Graphics for \$190 for flyers and table banners.

Because the items above were not previously published, they will be addressed at a called meeting on October 30, 2023. They will be approved at that time, as well as holding election of officers.

Geiger said she had been contacted by some of the local tourism bureaus about acquiring the tear sheets. She explained they were funded for the ICenters. She asked if the Commission would see if any of the ICenters need new ones, because they were printed two years ago. If new tear sheets need to be ordered, she suggested contacting the tourism offices to see if they would like to order them at the same time to get a rate. Webster said her office can always use more material.

## **National committee reports**

*Marketing Committee* None

*Transportation* Graber said there was discussion about the electric chargers. Also discussed the use of the logo from the MRT, because they were in court because of money issues.

*Environment, Recreation and Agriculture* Looking to move \$500 to Transportation to help with pursuit of MRT logo, Also looking for more advisors.

*Heritage and Culture* Discussed reviewing the applications and parameters. Found the mailed applications were not the same as the ones online.

### Chairman's report

Discussion of possible elimination of commission. Graber addressed the state's potential elimination of the Parkway Commission. He asked if any of the members had been contacted regarding the issue, and the documents say members will be contacted. None of the members had spoken to the committee. Martin said that was not what the commission report called for. Whaley said the DOT responded. She was asked why the document said we were served by 4 full-time employees of the DOT. She identified the individuals listed. She did not differentiate whether they were full-time DOT employees and the amount of time spent on the Commission. Several issues he brought up were that the name of the organization is not Mississippi River Planning Commission. The code says it is a planning commission but does not identify that as the name. Graber said he will follow through with the Legislature and is very angry with the process – or lack of.

**Adjourn for Foundation Report followed by the press release at the Port of Burlington Welcome Center.**