



**Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission
10:00 a.m. October 18, 2021
Putnam Museum and Science Center
1717 12th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52804
563-324-1933**

Graber called the meeting to order.

Present: Lisa Walsh, Paul Carroll, Paula Mayer, Jane Regan, and Ann Geiger

Others: Emily Whaley, DOT; Craig Markley, DOT; Leslie Klipsch, Putnam Museum

Mayer moved the minutes of the July 19, 2021. Regan seconded and the motion carried.

Mayer moved the treasurer's report Geiger seconded and the motion carried.

Graber said the National Office's fiscal year is on the Calendar year. The Commission paid \$7,500, half the national dues. He asked if the Commission wanted to pay the other \$7,500. There were no expenditures for the fall meeting since it was a zoom meeting, so the money is in the budget. Geiger moved to not pay the additional \$7,500 to the National Office by December 1st for its annual dues. Mayer seconded the motion and it carried.

Motion to authorize 5-year \$95.96 payment for GoDaddy to host Iowa website. Mayer said she would contact GoDaddy and asked for reimbursement. Moved by Carroll to approve the expenditure and reimbursement, Regan seconded the motion and it carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Iowa Byway Foundation. Walsh moved to approve a \$250 donation for the year. Mayer seconded the motion and it carried.

Geiger said she had been contacted by one of the radio stations to focus on winter activities for the Road, and any ICenter winter activities up to \$4,500. The Commission wants to start the ads in November and run until February. Spreading ads out and running part of the week will stretch the budget. Motion to approve the running of the ads by Carroll, seconded by Regan and the motion carried. Markley asked about taking bids since the amount of the expenditure was over \$1,500. A discussion was held referencing prior ads and the amount of free ads each station would offer. There are basically two conglomerates which control the stations in Iowa. Geiger asked why this would be any different than any of the other ads which the Commission has run for years. She asked if this could be done and approved by November and was assured it could be done. Mayer and Regan said they would get quotes.



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Mayer asked about spending a small amount of money for facebook ads to see if it would be beneficial. Mayer moved to start with \$200 to run until the end of the year. Regan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Geiger said there have been requests for road maps and the passport. Walsh said the National Office did not have enough money for the maps. Geiger said Jannett requested some of the maps for Lansing from the National Office and they sent him one with the opportunity for a donation.

The passports are going to be reprinted. There was discussion about removing the stamp portion of the document, and some of the commissioners said some of the Centers liked having them. It provides some interest in pursuing other visits.

Chairman's report. Graber asked Walsh to give the report since he was not able to attend. Walsh said the National Office was very happy about the zoom attendance for the fall meeting. Other than running the video of the Road, there was no formal program. All the committees met for an hour and then gave reports to everyone. There was a discussion regarding sending a letter of support to Mississippi River Towns and Initiatives. Some of the board members were not in favor, and Walsh pointed out the amount of corporate financial support it had. A letter was finally agreed upon.

Comments from Interpretive Centers Ex-Official Members and others

Markley reviewed the Guidance document for the Commission. There was a lengthy discussion regarding approval of Pilch and Barnett's job.

Update on Activities

Cascade Bridge. Walsh said there is still no movement, but the new city manager seems to be more open to a solution than previous administrators.

Young Museum. Geiger said access has been impossible. The manager will not grant access and the material is sitting on the floor in unclosed archive boxes. She said the National Office sent a letter and it did not go well. Graber said former member, Attorney Jay Schweitzer, was pursuing the situation and thought the final resolution may have to go to the courts.



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Both Geiger and Regan suggested finding out when the board met and attend.

Fish Hatchery. Carroll applied through Toyota's Grant National Scenic Byway Foundation. The Hatchery received a \$2K grant for materials and site improvement. United Way and River Action have used the facility for meetings. The Hatchery is doing a mussel display inside the building. It also got large family donation and Carroll would like to discuss the best use of it with them further. The trails have been improved. A friends group has been formed and Sandy Stephens, is the driver. Linn Pruitt, a member, is on the historic preservation commission.

Zebulon Pike. Carroll said he will get an update soon. Geiger suggested discussing it further in the Non-profit meeting.

Pine Creek Grist Mill. The Mill has closed for the season and has a new director – Ben Marcus.

Sawmill Museum. The Museum is celebrating its 10th anniversary with activities all year long.

Mines of Spain – It is awaiting a 28 E Agreement which would put management of the EB Lyons Center in the hands of Dubuque County Conservation. Hopefully there will be agreement by all parties and by November 10th it can go to the State Natural Resource Commission. The agreement will be between the City of Dubuque, Iowa DNR, Dubuque County Conservation, and the Friends of the Mines of Spain. The Friends of Mines of Spain have been working on this for 7 years.

Hurstville – It has been finishing up a new trail. At the Center the paving is complete. They are working on a Bridge next to connect the trail to the road. Eventually the trail will connect with the section coming north from Maquoketa.

Putnam Museum. Klipsch said the museum is open again with a mask requirement. It is restoring staff and visitors and school groups are coming back. Putnam is hosting a new exhibit opening in November called Winter Wheels - an antique motorcycle exhibit. It got an IMLA (Institute of Museum and Library Services) grant for a regional history update. It is the only institution in Iowa to get one and is a multi-year project..

Iowa Byways

Mayer has emailed all ICenters requesting updates to include in the next Byways newsletter, and she emailed Jared Nielsen for assistance in being host to the November Byways meeting.



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Next meeting will be January 10th. Geiger will check on the Camanche's Eco Center