

Minutes

**The Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas
Union Bank Building
102 West McCloy Street
Monticello, Arkansas
June 24, 2008**

Commissioners Present

Garland Hayes
Alvin Meyer
Robin McClendon
Bobby Kennedy
Taralou Dunklin
Joe St. Columbia
Molly Houseworth

Commissioners Absent

James Banks

Guests

Drew County Judge Damon Lampkin

Technical Advisors/ Department Staff/Guests Present

Nancy Clark, Great River Road Division Director
Julia Hart, Technical Advisor, Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department

Call to Order

Chairman Garland Hayes called the meeting to order, welcomed and introduced the guests and thanked everyone for taking time from their busy schedules to participate in the meeting of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission. Chairman Hayes announced that we have two new commissioners Carole Bulloch and Phyllis Stinson from Drew and Monroe Counties, respectively. They were unable to attend the meeting due to schedule conflicts.

County Judge Damon Lampkin welcomed the Commission and staff and gave a brief update on activities in Drew County.

Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Alvin Meyer moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Taralou Dunklin seconded and the motion carried.

Annual Meeting of the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Garland Hayes reported that the annual meeting will be held in Bettendorf, Iowa, on September 24-27, 2008. The meeting will take place at the Paradise Hotel. Mr. Hayes stated that he had talked with Pilot, Patsy Ramacitti, and that the flooding being experienced in Iowa would not effect the meeting place. Many special events are being planned for this 70th anniversary of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission. Mr. Hayes stated that he hoped the Arkansas Commission and Technical Advisors could attend as Arkansas always has good representation at the meetings.

Joe St. Columbia moved to approve payment of the registration fees and travel expenses for Commissioners, and registration fees only for Technical Advisors to attend the annual meeting of the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission to be held September 24-27, 2008, in Bettendorf, Iowa. Alvin Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Geocaching Project for 70th Anniversary of Great River Road Update

Nancy Clark reported the Arkansas portion of the Great River Road 70th Anniversary geocaching celebration is well underway. A series of geocaches were created specifically for the 70th anniversary celebration, and have been placed in each of the 10 counties through which the Great River Road traverses in Arkansas: Mississippi, Crittenden, St. Francis, Lee, Phillips, Monroe, Arkansas, Desha, Drew, and Chicot counties. To date caches have been found 83 times. Many of the cachers stated in their logs that they made a special trip to find the caches, and they are participating in the 10-state Great River Road geocache project. This is an example of the comments: "Pulled off the Interstate to get the cache in Tennessee and couldn't pass up two great caches so close by!" and "Found it with my grandsons. In all my travels, I never stopped at this site, but a geocache brought me to it. Your Great River Road idea is wonderful. Put out more! I hope to find more in time. Thanks" Anyone can participate in the "National Great River Road 70th Anniversary Geocaching Event."

For serious geocachers, special drawings for prizes await those who find all the caches in one or more of the participating states along the scenic thoroughfare. The program is a wonderful opportunity for individuals and families to learn about the historic river and the rich culture of the region that lies along its banks. Prizes will be awarded at the meeting of the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission meeting in September, 2008 in Iowa. Each state is responsible for getting donations for a gift basket to be presented to prize winners at the meeting.

Delta Byways Update

Nancy Clark stated that Dr. Ruth Hawkins had a conflict and could not attend the meeting, but sent the following report. 1. The Arkansas Great River Road brochures are at the design shop and will be printed soon. 2. The interpretive center signs are still being discussed as to whether to start from scratch, get new poles or figure out a way to make the Arkansas part of the sign work on the same pole with the national signage. 3. A meeting with the Highway Department has been scheduled to discuss the Loop Signage as well as new Crowley's Ridge Parkway signage to include the National Scenic Byways logo. 4. Henry and Julia Jones are driving the Great River Road route from both directions, including the loops, to assess any places additional signage or new signage is needed. 5. Work continues on oral histories of the Mississippi River, Web site changes, Great River Road itineraries and video.

Great River Road Interpretive Center Signage Update

A discussion ensued regarding the interpretive center signage. Alvin Meyer said that the outdoor signs for the interpretive centers were supposed to have the national information on one side and the Arkansas designation on the other side of the poles. The Arkansas signage design is complete, but in looking at the poles which were installed they are not slit on both

sides for installation of 2 signs. Mr. Meyer reported that he had looked at the sign located at Lake Chicot State Park, and he felt it was too complicated to try to cut another groove in the pole for an additional sign. He also considered using a larger pole to slip over the existing one, but didn't believe that would be feasible either. The Dan Lang Sign Company who produced the original signs quoted a price of \$282 for a single sign post and \$416 for the double sign posts, and these prices did not include shipping. After this discussion, the Commission's recommendation was to start over with the signs and posts if funds were available, and use the existing signs at other places.

Southern Traveler Magazine Story on Arkansas's Great River Road

Nancy Clark reported that a travel writer, Diana West, called for information on the Arkansas portion of the Great River Road. She was seeking help with lodging and travel expenses to tour the entire road in Arkansas. Ms. West sent an email stating that the article would be published in the June issue of *Southern Traveler Magazine*. Ms. Clark said she would get copies of the magazine.

Resolutions

Nancy Clark presented resolutions for Robin McClendon and Anna Grizzle for the years of dedicated service to the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas.

**Alvin Meyer moved to approve the resolutions as presented.
Joe St. Columbia seconded and the motion carried.**

WHEREAS, Robin A. McClendon has provided dedicated and invaluable service and leadership to the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, serving as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Robin A. McClendon has volunteered her time, energy and expertise serving as Treasurer of the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission; and

WHEREAS, Robin A. McClendon has given unfailingly and unselfishly over ten years of service to the Commission in the furtherance of its goals; and

WHEREAS, Robin A. McClendon has made a lasting contribution to the activities of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, and the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas express their deep and continued appreciation for the numerous contributions of Robin A. McClendon to the success of its programs.

This **RESOLUTION** adopted by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission on this 24th day of June, 2008, in the City of Monticello, Arkansas.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION
Garland A. Hayes, Chairman

GREAT RIVER ROAD DIVISION
Nancy Clark, Director

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Anna Grizzle has provided dedicated and invaluable service and leadership to the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, serving as Vice-chairman; and

WHEREAS, Anna Grizzle gave unflinchingly and unselfishly of her time to the Commission in the furtherance of its goals; and

WHEREAS, Anna Grizzle has made a lasting contribution to the activities of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas express their deep and continued appreciation for the numerous contributions of Anna Grizzle to the success of its programs.

This **RESOLUTION** adopted by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission on this 24th day of June 2008, in the City of Monticello, Arkansas.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION
Garland A. Hayes, Chairman

GREAT RIVER ROAD DIVISION
Nancy Clark, Director

Miscellaneous

Chairman Garland Hayes reported on a recent meeting held by the DeWitt pride organization, which is overseeing DeWitt's participation in the Arkansas Downtown Network. Consultants spent the day visiting businesses in the downtown district and advising the owners on exterior and interior design and small business operations. Afterwards the consultants addressed a public meeting, summarizing their findings. They reported that "overall, DeWitt has a solid basis for redevelopment." Chairman Hayes encouraged other members of the Commission to report on developments in their counties and communities at future meetings.

Julia Hart, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, reported that the Arkansas Scenic Byways brochure will be printed later in the summer. She said 100,000 copies will be printed and will include information on all the national and state scenic byways in Arkansas.

Commission Meeting Schedule

Chairman Garland Hayes reminded Commissioners to be return their TR1s to Nancy Clark for processing. A discussion ensued as to the next meeting date, and it was decided that a meeting would be held in Bettendorf if enough commissioners attended the national meeting in September. Chairman Hayes expressed appreciation to Robin McClendon for hosting the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Garland Hayes, Chairman
Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Nancy Clark, Director
Great River Road Division