

## MRPC Meeting Minutes February 2017

The MRPC meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on February 13, 2017 at the Pearl Button Museum in Muscatine, Iowa.

The agenda was approved and budget was OK also. Jay moved, Dan seconded to accept treasurer's report-it passed.

Interpretive Center updates:

Gwen Prentice from Wild Cat Den State Park, gave a report. "Friends of the Mill" does many things to keep it open for tourists and also operational with over 10,000 visitors in 2016.

Terry Eagle from the Pearl Button Museum gave an overview of its activities. They are trying to become a "National Historic Treasure". Muscatine has a rich history to tell to visitors.

Jena Pollock from "Motor Mills" interpretive center reported that they were broken into twice last year. Traffic problems with a bridge are being dealt with also and the visitation is growing.

Our next MRPC meeting will be held on March 20, in Lansing, Iowa, home of the fall annual meeting for our National MRPC. Planning for the annual meeting followed.

- Tuesday night (9/19) a movie is planned.
- Wednesday night,(9/20) V. J. Smith from South Dakota with a cost of \$2500 for travel and lodging. Meal to be done by Empty Nest Winery.
- Thursday lunch (9/21) a fish fry on the River and Backwater excursion.
- On Sept. 19th Interpretive Centers will have 6 ft. by 8 ft. booths to display their information. Martin will ask each interpretive center to have a booth at the Tuesday (9/19) reception at 5 p.m. Hope to have Max Churchill as Mark Twain there.
- It was moved to hire V.J. Smith for Wed.(9/20) evening program for \$2500 which includes his fee, transportation and lodging.
- It was moved to pursue a video on driftless region for opening reception for Tuesday (9/19) night at a cost of no more than \$750.
- Wednesday (9/20) evening at the Winery with the Pilot's dinner. This event will be open to the public with tickets for purchase. It is hoped that the Ag speech will include talk about water quality, trends in Iowa Ag and its importance. No more than a 20 min. speech.
- We decided to use " Agritainment-Iowa Style", as our theme for the annual meeting in Marquette, Iowa on Sept. 19, 20, 21, at the Cobblestone Hotel.

Martin Graber reported on Interpretive centers.

Jane Regan reported on the marketing committee and ads for various magazines.

Various banners were looked at and Scott T. will be working with the Iowa DOT to make a few changes.

Scott T. asked our Commission to support the Pedestrian bridge near E. Davenport being proposed. Motion made and passed.

Jay S. talked about Bicycle rides along the GRR. 2018 is the date for a bike ride the length of the GRR. We are looking for a sponsor to help get this project going.

Edith talked about "Creation of Tourism Corridors" trying to re-emphasize the GRR. Buses, trains, etc. could lead the way to enhance economic development in the U.S.

Trails, water, walking emphasis in 2017 (Year of the Trails).

June 6-July 31, Bike ride in Iowa dates, "Bike the GRR".

March 16 is the Farnam Dinner that Edith and Dan will have a booth there.

The State Fair booth was discussed and decided to ask for 1 day and a better booth location.

Jena asked about a banner designed for each individual Interpretive Center to use. We might have some mock-ups done for the next meeting.

Martin and Jane moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary,  
Dan Petersen