

THE ROAD AHEAD PARTNERSHIP  
ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 16, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Annual Board of Directors Meeting for the Road Ahead Partnership was called to order on Friday, February 16, 2018 at 9:30 A.M. in Tulsa, Oklahoma with Executive Chair, Bill Thomas presiding

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll call indicated the following Board members present: John Miller, Tommy Pike, Renee Charles, Melissa Beasley, Sharlene Fouser, Scott Piotrowski  
Absent: Brad Nickerson, Larry Clonts

Roll Call indicated the following Working Group members presents: David Brickner, Jeff Fulgenzi, Bill Kelly, Steve Mandrgoc, Dora Meroney, Dries Bessels, Bill Thomas  
Absent: Emerson Vallo

National Park Service: Aaron Mahr, Kaisa Barthuli

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Moved by Ms. Fouser; seconded by Mr. Piotrowski  
To nominate Bill Thomas as Chairman, David Bricker, as Vice Chairman, Renee Charles as Secretary and Bill Kelly as Treasurer.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Moved by Mr. Kelly; seconded by Ms. Fouser; to approve and place on file the Board of Directors Meeting minutes 9/19/17  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Moved by Mr. Fulgenzi; seconded by Mr. Miller to accept and place on file the treasurers report as given

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**2017-02 ANNUAL BOARD MTGS:**

Moved by Ms. Piotrowski; seconded by Ms. Fouser to accept reworded policy from **will be**, to the change being **will be the preferred but not mandatory**

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**2017-03 ANNUAL PUBLIC MTGS:**

Moved by Mr. Piotrowski; seconded by Mr. Brickner to accept reworded policy to accept reworded policy from **will be**, to the change being **will be the preferred but not mandatory**

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**WORKING GROUP UPDATES:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Jeff Fulgenzi stated the Economic Development Working Group discussed having tools available to help sell the corridor for local officials, economic developers, and those along the corridor considering making an investment. The committee discussed creating an incentive program to leverage local dollars and creating a document that will identify the number of different tools and techniques that have been utilized successfully. This document can then be distributed to those that are interested and to the local officials and businesses.

**RESEARCH & EDUCATION:** Steve Mandrgoc discussed the Educator Tool Kit to enhance what teachers are teaching or encourage them that one way they could teach the stuff that they need to teach is through Route 66. Committee is discussing whether secondary or college level course or an elementary or secondary as an add on course. Research Route 66 which is an organization that is a collaboration of libraries and archives in all the States on Route 66 is helping with outreach, reaching out to educators to bring children in to exhibitions and information on Route 66. The committee have been meeting with several professors and teachers from all levels, but still little short on the secondary level. They have twelve syllabi or course work they are organizing and placing on-line, so educators can pick out what they need and what might be useful for them.

**TASK FORCE UPDATES:**

**NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS:** John Comoboy Amy Webb and Grant Stevens, with the National Trust gave an update HR-801 to designate Route 66 as an Historical Trail, 21 co-sponsors from both parties. November was the committee hearing, passed out of the House unanimously. The bill is now on the floor of the house waiting to come up for a vote. Two things to work on getting a Bill in the Senate and start getting support for the bill. The National Trust is working on a grass tops as well as a grass roots approach to getting support for HR - 801. Grass tops with Pam Bowman with government relations staff for the National Trust and grass roots effort to get corporate sponsors to support a forty-five-day road trip to highlight the people and places on Route 66, and to design an on-line location to sign an on - line petition, status of designation and connect with the people and elected officials. Regular updates will be sent out to all.

**FINANCIAL SUSTAINMENT:** Bill Thomas restated about the 5-year cooperative agreement and an annual task agreement with the NPS. State Farm Insurance has agreed to donate \$50,000.00 for three years, which the first allotment was in September. Corporate sponsors, working with the National Trust, are other stream of revenue, the route 66 navigation application that may offer potential revenue stream as well and Charity Charge Credit, a public benefit corporation that offers cardholders 1% cash back in the form of a donation. 25% will be given to charity of choice and 75% will go to Road Ahead. 90% of the 75% the organization receives will go to preservation, 10% of the 75% that the organization receive will go to Road Ahead administration.

**ADVISORY GROUP:**

**INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP:** Dries Bessels discussed ways international groups and tourist are working to preserve and promote Route 66. He asked that the Road Ahead Website and State Association Websites have translation attachments. The International Advisory Group is willing to help in any way.

**TRIBAL ADVISORY GROUP:** Emerson Vallo was not present to report; Mr. Thomas indicated he would email his report to the Executive Committee when he received it.

*Ottawa County Commissioner Earls spoke on behalf of the side walk Highway/Ribbon Road in his County. A stretch of Route that is only nine feet wide and discuss the effort to get it ready for travel by the tourist again. He wanted to think the Organization for what they ae doing for the entire Route.*

**WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORTS:**

**PRESERVATION WORKING GROUP:** David Brickner stated there was not much to report, that they are still working on educating everyone on Section 106 preservation process.

**STATE ADVOCACY WOKING GROUP:** Dora Mehoney reported the discussion on annual festivals has been tabled. One website for all eight states on Route 66 so the tourist can go to and check out the state associations websites is being considered. The group discussed bringing a roadie into the State Association working group to give their perspective and to gain information on what the Road Ahead organization is doing so they can get the information out there.

**PROMOTION WORKING GROUP:** Billy Kelly updated the board on HR 801, HR 66, and discussed on what to do to be prepared for the Route 66 Centennial Commission both State and Local. Discussed where the promotion dollars in your state might be and to get familiar with those programs

**BUDGET:**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:** Bill Thomas, Jeff Fulgenzie brought to the board a suggestion that \$5000.00 be spent to put together a set economic development case studies. The board also discussed allocating \$10,000.000 to fund an impact studies to better understand what the impact is, who the travelers are and what they want in their travels, expenditures. Rutgers impact study gave great information but there was a gap, and the gap is very broad in scope because it talks about all heritage tourism. Kiasa Barthuli spoke of the information that Rutgers did provide, 1. The eight Route 66 States comprised a colossal travel market 30% of the entire national travel activity, CA. IL. & TX. top three in tourism spending 2. Heritage Tourism spends more money than any tourism group and its growing. The eight Route 66 states share 14.5 billion (conservative estimate 2017) 3. Link up to existing agency that do surveys and asked to have a question added to the tourism surveys regarding 66 tourisms at a cost to the organization.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Moved by Mr. Kelly; seconded by Ms. Fouser to authorize the executive committee to finalize the specifics but to authorize up to \$15000.00 to achieve the two strategic task of Economic Development case studies and impact study research.

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**PROMOTION:**

Moved by Ms. Meroney; seconded by Mr. Fulgenzi for expenditure of \$4950.00 for the graduate assistantships for the Route 66 Navigation App  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**RESEARCH & EDUCATION:**

Moved by Mr. Kelly; seconded by Ms. Meroney for expenditure of \$3500.00 for 6-month pilot Youth Initiative Project and to share concerns that were expressed with the Research & Education board and the ones working on the project.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY: Mr. Piotrowski  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**CROSS STATE COLLABORATION:**

Moved by Ms. Charles; seconded by Mr. Brickner for expenditure of \$3,300.00 to improve stakeholder communications.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**INTERNATIONAL SURVEY:**

Moved by Mr. Piotrowski; seconded by Mr. Pike for expenditure for \$1300.00 International visitors online survey.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**RESERVE FUND:**

Moved by Mr. Fulgenzi; seconded by Mr. Piotrowski to set aside a Reserve Fund of \$14,500.00 and allow the executive committee in the event its necessary to expend those funds consistent with the mission of The Road Ahead.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**PRESERVATION:**

Moved by Mr. Miller; seconded by Mr. Piotrowski to accept the amount for Preservation Projects that will be generated by the Road Ahead Credit Card at \$1687.50 which is subject to change  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**5-YEAR BUDGET:**

Moved by Mr. Piotrowski; seconded by Mr. Pike to adopt the tentative 5-year budget as presented.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Mr. Pike; seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the Annual Board of Directors Meeting dated 2/16/18.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas  
NAY:  
Absent: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

THE ROAD AHEAD PARTNERSHIP  
ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 17, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Annual Board of Directors Meeting for the Road Ahead Partnership was called to order on Friday, February 17, 2018 at 9:30 A.M. in the Tulsa, Oklahoma with Executive Chair, Bill Thomas presiding

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll call indicated the following Board members present: John Miller, Tommy Pike, Renee Charles, Melissa Beasley, Sharlene Fouser, Scott Piotrowski Brad Nickerson,  
Absent: Larry Clonts

Roll Call indicated the following Working Group members presents: David Brickner, Jeff Fulgenzi, Bill Kelly, Steve Mandroc, Dora Meroney, Dries Bessels, Bill Thomas  
Absent: Emerson Vallo

National Park Service: Aaron Mahr, Kaisa Barthuli

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ROUTE 66 Navigation App** - Ashley Bollhurst shared a power point on the Route 66 Navigation App.

**USBR 66** - Patrick Tuttle shared information on the initiative for USBR 66 and request a letter of support for the USBR 66 in Missouri.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT:**

Moved by Mr. Fulgenzi; seconded by Ms. Fouser  
To write a letter of support for the USBR 66 through Missouri.

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Nickerson

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo

Motion Carries:



Moved by Piotrowski; seconded by Ms. Meroney  
To write a letter of support for USBR 66 across  
all eight states of Route 66.

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms.  
Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr.  
Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr.  
Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr.  
Thomas, Mr. Nickerson

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo

Motion Carries:

**2018-01 PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Moved by Mr. Piotrowski; seconded by Mr. Pike  
to accept 2018-01 Public Comments with the  
change to the time allotted for public comments  
to ***will be pre-determine by the Chairman or  
Vice Chairman***

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms.  
Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr.  
Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr.  
Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr.  
Thomas, Mr. Nickerson

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo

Motion Carries:

Moved by Mr. Piotrowski; seconded by Mr.  
Fulgenzie to remove the first sentence in item  
three and replace with **Chairman allowed to set  
time based on number of speakers.**

AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms.  
Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr.  
Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Mr.  
Mandrgoc, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas,  
Mr. Nickerson

NAY:

Absent: Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo

Motion Carries:

**TIMING OF STAKEHOLDERS MEETING: NO ACTION TAKEN**

**PARTNERSHIP WITH RESEARCH ROUTE 66:** Moved by Mr. Piotrowski; seconded by Ms. Fouser to allow Mr. Mandrgoc the opportunity to pursue a partnership with research 66 at their March meeting with no further action taken at this time until a report is made back to us.  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Nickerson  
NAY:  
Abstained: Mr. Mandrgoc  
Absent: Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

**2019 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:** Moved by Ms. Fouser; seconded by Mr. Piotrowski to have the 2019 Annual Road Ahead Board meeting to be held in Albuquerque, NM on February 21-23, 2019  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Nickerson; Mr. Mandrgoc  
NAY:  
Abstained:  
Absent: Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

The Road Ahead Partnership then paused briefly to honor Cyrus Avery III passing and to recognize the significant contributions made by his grandfather and his efforts to Route 66.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Ms. Charles; seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the Annual Board of Directors Meeting  
AYE: Mr. Miller, Mr. Pike, Ms. Charles, Ms. Beasley, Ms. Fouser, Mr. Piotrowski: Mr. Brickner, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Meroney, Mr. Bessels, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Nickerson; Mr. Mandrgoc  
NAY:  
Abstained:  
Absent: Mr. Clonts, Mr. Vallo  
Motion Carries:

ATTEST:

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Flora R Charles, Secretary

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Bill Thomas, Chair

