



2016 Indiana Bicentennial Commission

February 28, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

Commission members and staff present:

- First Lady Karen Pence
- Former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
- Former Congressman Lee Hamilton
- Judge Sarah Evans Barker
- Steve Ferguson
- PE MacAllister – via conference call
- James Madison
- Mary McConnell
- Jim McCormick – via conference call
- State Sen. Jim Merritt
- Ellen Rosenthal
- Justice Randall Shepard
- Chris Jensen
- Deborah Wezensky

II. The Nature Conservancy Welcome – **Mary McConnell, State Director, Indiana Chapter** **The Children's Park Project – an extension of the Bicentennial Nature Trust**

- A way to ignite the future for Indiana's children.
- We could **change the way children relate** to the concept of conservation.
- We could **inspire a generation of Hoosiers** to have a deeper connection with the world around them.
- What if, Indiana's Bicentennial Celebration served as **catalyst for it all**?
- Last fall, Governor and First Lady Pence announced creation of a new Bicentennial Legacy Area...A unique model- one that requires partnership of public/private/government entities to achieve success was announced and heralded at the event – a continuation of Indiana's state park legacy began in 1916.
 - This same model for the Bicentennial Legacy Area and partners are at the heart of the Children's Park Project, and that Park will be in the heart of that Bicentennial Legacy area.
 - Partners include The Nature Conservancy, Department of Natural Resources, COPE Environmental Institute, land trusts and other entities.
- The catalyst idea that was presented to the Commission: The idea of bestowing to over 1,100,000 Indiana students a sense of ownership -- deeding to each student a one-square-meter plot of land – a unique longitude/latitude coordinate, to provide a sense of place to reinforce the importance of



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conservation, of Hoosier pride, and success of our State. The Children's Park project that was formally endorsed by the Commission in October 2012. This Project has not been announced publicly yet – that launch needs to be done in a very strategic manner – please be respectful of this decision.

- The Nature Conservancy's vision is to integrate the park into the classroom. The DOE & Environmental Ed Communities interest in bridging site specific, real life activities with e-learning in the classroom and at home in a secure online setting.
- High level description of e-learning and virtual interaction with the park - with the goal of reinforcing learning and inspiring active participation at the site which will undergo revitalization in many ecosystems and in their communities.
- **Cameron Clark, Director, Department of Natural Resources** provided a summary of the Bicentennial Legacy Area. Since the October announcement, three more properties have acquired adding 368 acres to the area. Conservation in the area will help protect the watershed from the Cope Environment Center to the north down to the Brookville Reservoir to the south. Two more purchases in process currently and noted parcels are being negotiated that may involve some significant pieces of property.
- **Allison Zajdel, COPE Environmental Institution**, a conservation initiative outside of Richmond, Ind., that serves seven counties. Over the last 15 years, 125,000 students have been directly engaged in programming. Thousands more visit for family programs.
 - When The Nature Conservancy and the DNR approached COPE about this conservation project, COPE was in the early stages of a capital building project. The goal is to be net-zero in energy usage, net-zero in water – along with The Nature Conservancy – leading the state in sustainable construction.
 - COPE has been partnering with teachers and administrators so that they are aware that environmental education is essential and includes art, physics, language and reading – outdoor learning makes students' learning improve.
 - The Institute has been awarded \$125,000 grant by the Nine Pulliam Trust to hire a coordinator to facilitate COPE educational initiatives through partnerships with conservation centers across Indiana.

III. Committee Reports

a. Endorsement Approvals – Ellen Rosenthal



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- The first group of Applications was reviewed – 32 total, from 8 counties: Delaware, Grant, Hamilton, Howard, Howard, Marion, Monroe, Spencer and Wabash. The goal is to have projects dotted across the state of Indiana initiated by a diverse variety of organizations.
- Thirty-one were approved by the Board on the recommendation of Endorsement Committee: Colleen Smyth, Indiana State Museum; Pam Bennett, Indiana Historical Bureau; Jesse James, volunteer, NiSource; Ellen Rosenthal, Conner Prairie; Chris Jensen and Deborah Wezensky, Indiana Bicentennial Commission.
- A detailed list of Approved Bicentennial Legacy Projects and the Letter of Endorsement, Bicentennial Logo Guidelines and logos were provided to Commission members.
- Spread the word about the Bicentennial Application for Endorsement – direct those you come into contact with to the website www.indiana2016.org to learn more about the Endorsement process.
- Judge Sarah Evans Barker suggested that statewide educational venues such as science fair, county/state fairs, 4-H projects – go through the Department of Education to inform these groups – that perhaps a county winner is worthy of endorsement.
- First Lady Karen Pence related an opportunity for a PSA with former first ladies a Foundation luncheon on April 30 – a great opportunity to spread the word about the Bicentennial and Bicentennial Legacy Projects – have on website, television later.
- Categories:
 - Nature Conservation – 2
 - Youth & Education – 17
 - Community Involvement – 6
 - Historic Celebration – 6
- Next Application for Endorsement deadline: March 31, 2014

IV. New Business

a. **Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) Presentation – Lewis Ricci** – introduced by First Lady Karen Pence

- First Lady Karen Pence saw Doug Arntholder’s community-building mural project at Ball State University as part of his Mural of the World project. One



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Lewis' five ideas involves the state parks using existing staff and it is a sustainable project that would engage many families across the state.

- Also joining Lewis -- Trevor Yager, President/CEO Trendy Minds, also serving as a arts commissioner, and Ginger Murphy, Director of Stewardship, State Parks and Reservoirs, Department of Natural Resources.
- Indiana Bicentennial aligns with other arts related events/anniversaries
 - 2016 Indiana Bicentennial
 - 2015-2016 Arts Commission 50th Anniversary
 - 2015-2016 Governor's Arts Awards (22nd)
 - 2016 Indiana State Parks Centennial
- Ways to connect the IAC with Indiana Bicentennial Commission initiatives:
 - **"Preferred"**
 - Branding **IAC project grants** as Official Bicentennial Celebration Projects during 2015, 2016, 2017.

The program is already in place and is state funded.

- ❖ 140-150 grants are given annually
- ❖ Majority of counties served (most widespread IAC program)
- ❖ Both urban and rural parts of the State
- ❖ Planned, developed, programmed and attended by local communities and organizations
- ❖ Requires no additional funding given current IAC State appropriations level and National Endowment for the Arts grant (\$530,000 annual cost for grants -- \$4 state funds: \$1 federal grant funds)
- ❖ System in place and well tested for promoting, evaluating and awarding via 11 Regional Arts Partners
- ❖ **Chief Justice Shepard** posed the question that IAC bicentennial project grant recipients in 2015, 2016 and 2017 would be no different in scope than in 2018 or 2019. Lewis said there would not be.
- ❖ **Ellen Rosenthal** suggested that more bicentennial-related IAC grant projects may request to be designated Bicentennial Legacy Projects – perhaps a special classification housed within the IAC project grants – some



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kind of self-identification to wanting to be linked to the bicentennial.

- Retrospective cultural salute via **2015-2016 Governor's Arts Awards** done since 1973 that champions supporters of the artist and artists' prowess while underscoring the Bicentennial too.
 - ❖ The Governor's Arts Award could be commissioned to reflect a bicentennial theme and is created by an Indiana artist.
 - Super charge this awards event – invite former first ladies, governors, etc., musical talent from Indiana to perform, etc.
 - Modest additional investment needed to “super charge” the event.
- Bring back **Arts in Our State Parks** – would be 100th anniversary of state parks and 50th anniversary of Indiana Arts Commission. Connects local artists, organizations and communities to state parks. Goal: 250 to 300 exhibitions, classes, performances and artist residencies as well as traditional and contemporary arts. Brings the arts and the environment together.
 - Estimated funding: \$350,000 annually including appropriate grant funding as part of the application to participate. DNR coordination onsite and IAC oversees jurisdiction of artists/grants.
- **Additional Possibilities**
 - Commission “Indiana Masterpieces” -- specific works and programs related to the Bicentennial such as an art exhibition by an Indiana artist or a Cole Porter musical extravaganza or theater related to the bicentennial. Arts organizations would apply to be able to create such Masterpieces to IAC.
 - **Co-chair Former Congressman Lee Hamilton** suggested a potential Indiana Masterpiece Center or travelling exhibit to showcase these commissioned works/programs. NOTE: These masterpieces could be re-packaged and presented, for example, at the Governor's Art Awards.
 - Public art in the parks and official cultural districts such as the current ones in Columbus, Bloomington, Nashville, West Lafayette



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and Carmel. A more formidable price index for something like the Lincoln Plaza installed in Lincoln State Park, Spencer County.

- **Co-chair Former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman** asked that Indiana Arts Commission form a specific proposal or list to present at the April 11, 2014 board meeting.
 - **Steve Ferguson** Suggested linking county 4-H winners in traditional categories as bicentennial designees forwarded (perhaps a competition?) to the state fair as part of the bicentennial celebration in 2016. Possibly the state Department of Agriculture, Purdue Extension, etc. Traditional Arts has a masters category already established at the state fair.
- b. **Addition to the executive Team: Welcome to Perry T. Hammock**, Certified Fund Raising Executive, in charge of fundraising and volunteer management for the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. The commission thanks the Governor for this huge boost to our Bicentennial efforts. Perry will be weighing the feasibility of identified projects as he will ultimately be in charge of raising funds to support those projects.

Perry has formerly worked as executive director for Ivy Tech Community Foundation since 1986. He comes on board March 4, 2014 to join our Commission efforts. The state is paying his salary and arranging for his benefits. His office will be in the Indiana Bicentennial Commission office with Chris and Deborah. It is located in the Indiana State Library, 140 N. Senate AVE, Room 410, Indianapolis, Ind.

c. Theme and Capital Project Brainstorm

- Existing projects:
 - Torch Relay with everlasting light on the State House grounds
 - Bicentennial Nature Trust conservation properties
- Projects identified by Commission members:
 - Arts in the Parks – DNR and Arts Commission
 - Commissioned artwork
 - Archives building – public funds
 - Bicentennial babies
 - State House welcome center – interactive exhibit for children
 - State House monument
 - Healthcare for children



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- Record center – digitalization of Archives
- Bicentennial Plaza – 92 counties represented; for example, limestone map with county historic sites and the Torch
- Boy Lincoln statue conserved and moved into the rotunda
- Obesity/healthy living initiative
- Farmers market in hospitals
- Bicentennial scholarship – perhaps announce Statehood Day Dec. 11, 2016
- Set up state funds for conservation funding to be used after 2016
- Strategic signage – perhaps legislators introduce Bicentennial Bill
- Healthcare in schools – research Community Benefits plan

Jim Madison made a motion that the Board fast track the State Archives project to protect State documents that are insecure at the present site. Senator Jim Merritt seconded the motion. Co-chair, Former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman called for a Board vote: Results all “ayes” and no “nays”.

2014 Indiana Bicentennial Board Meeting Schedule

Jim Merritt suggested that Board meets more than once a quarter.

Dates for 2014 Board Meetings: Fridays at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.:

- April 11, 2014
- May 23, 2014
- July 11, 2014
- August 22, 2014
- October 3, 2014
- November 14, 2014
- January 16, 2015