

2016 Indiana Bicentennial Commission Meeting

Wednesday April 4, 2012

10:00 a.m.

- Members Present:
 - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
 - Congressman Lee Hamilton
 - Jim Madison
 - Mary McConnell
 - Elizabeth Osborn (proxy for fmr. Chief Justice Randall Shepard)
 - Judge Sarah Evans Barker
 - P.E. MacAllister (phone)
 - Jim McCormick (phone)
 - Senator Jim Merritt
 - Steve Ferguson
 - Cathy Ferree (proxy for Ellen Rosenthal)
- Lt. Governor Skillman opened the meeting and welcomed new members.
- Bicentennial Nature Trust Update
 - Rob Carter, Director of DNR gave an overall update of the program.
 - John Davis, DNR, expressed DNR's desire to continue to assist the Commission all the way up and through 2016.
 - Nick Heinzelman, DNR, gave a thorough presentation (including handout) of the Nature Trust program as well as application process.
 - Projects in every area of the State
 - Community Foundation involvement
 - Complete all funding by end of 2016
 - Some discussion recurred over whether the Commission had "legal authority" over decided projects. John Davis expressed that DNR will continue to move forward with current approval process.
 - Hamilton expressed some concern over the name of the project. "Nature Trust" does not mean the same thing to every Hoosier.
 - Mary McConnell emphasized that the Nature Trust should have a big "legacy" project attached to it. Jim Madison agreed.
 - Madison stressed that the Commission needed to look at the bigger picture and for additional partners across the state in order to avoid "scatterization."
 - Judge Barker asked that the Commission consider how state and federal are linked in this project.
- Lt. Governor Skillman talked about how the next general purpose license plate issued by the BMV will be the Bicentennial License plate. She also shared the design with the Commission.

- Collaborative History Working Group Update – as mentioned during the first meeting, the Historical Working Group was formed several years ago. It has been working on pieces of the 2016 Bicentennial Celebration as well as other historical celebrations in the state. This presentation was a way to bring everyone onto the same page and know what work has been done prior to the formation of the Commission.
 - Pam Bennett, Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau
 - Bennett gave a thorough background of the Indiana Historical Bureau and ways it can assist the Bicentennial Commission
 - Roberta Brooker, State Librarian
 - Brooker gave a thorough background of the State Library and ways it can assist the Bicentennial Commission
 - Formed in 1825
 - Ted Cotterill, Deputy Director of the Commission on Public Records
 - Cotterill gave a thorough background on the Commission & State Archives and ways it can assist the Bicentennial Commission
 - 250,000,000 pages at the Archives
 - Colleen Smyth, Associate VP of Education & Outreach, Indiana State Museum
 - Smyth gave a thorough background on the State Museum and ways it can assist the Bicentennial Commission
 - Barker expressed a desire to widen the library’s idea re: bookmarks for Governors to include other branches of government
 - Madison expressed that they group should look for ways to include individual county history groups
 - McConnell thought it would be a good idea to develop a state-wide barcode system where people could scan barcodes when they visit interesting historical sites
 - Madison suggested that the state needs a new State Archives facility. Current one too run-down and unsafe to house historical documents.
 - Steve Ferguson asked if the archives could be more “digitized” thus reducing the necessary structural footprint of the archives
- Non-Profit Interaction
 - Congressman Hamilton gave the group an update on non-profit group he has been exposed to
 - Indiana Grantmakers Alliance
 - Met with President & Director
 - Distributed a list of organizations that the Grantmakers felt would be helpful to interact with
- Contact Management
 - Hamilton stressed that the group should consider one centralized location to keep contacts
 - Brooker offered the State Library as a house for such organization
- Media Relations

- Hamilton met with Perry Metz to gather thoughts on interacting with the media
- The media can be a strong advocate for the Commission
- Important for Commission members to engage public broadcasting
- Distributed a memo to Commission members with thoughts on this
- Higher Education Involvement
 - Hamilton recommended that the Commission work closely with the Indiana Department of Education as well as the Commission on Higher Education
- Structural Setup
 - Hamilton addressed the fact that the Commission is currently unfunded
 - Barker suggested looking for grad students to assist
 - Hamilton stressed the need for a quality Executive Director
 - Liz Osborn expressed how the Court has used interns from local universities in the past with success
 - McConnell asked what sort of funding would be available in the future
 - Skillman said that the Commission needs to be a topic during the next budget adopting session of the Indiana General Assembly
 - Bennett stated that the Library Foundation had some initial funds, but could not fund the whole Commission
 - Barker suggested targeting Indiana natives who would be available to donate initial seed money for the Commission
 - McConnell suggested that the Commission needed a good fundraiser and someone who was fully committed to 2016
 - Hamilton suggested putting together a list of top companies here in Indiana to target for funds
 - Skillman recommended distributing a letter to all community foundations asking for support
- Open Discussion
 - Sen. Jim Merritt charged the Commission to think big moving forward.
 - Merritt also suggested developing a “time capsule” as part of the celebration as well as consider moving the Lincoln statue inside the Statehouse
 - Merritt also encouraged the Commission to reach out to the university presidents to include them in this discussion
 - Hamilton thought it may be a good idea to reach out to the planners of the Super Bowl to have them present to the Commission
 - Skillman said she could reach out to Allison Melangton and inquire.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.