

2016 Indiana Bicentennial Commission Meeting

Wednesday July 11, 2012

10:00 a.m.

- Members Present:
 - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
 - Congressman Lee Hamilton
 - Jim Madison
 - Mary McConnell
 - Fmr. Chief Justice Randall Shepard
 - P.E. MacAllister
 - Jim McCormick
 - Senator Jim Merritt
 - Steve Ferguson
 - Ellen Rosenthal
 - Tony George
 - Mickey Maurer
 - Howard Cohen
- Lt. Governor Becky Skillman & Congressman Lee Hamilton opened the public meeting at 10:04 a.m.
 - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman introduced Allison Melangton, President & CEO of the Super Bowl for the purpose of a presentation.
 - Melangton presented a video and power point presentation to the Commission. The presentation outlined the different committees, structure and programming undertaken by the Super Bowl leading up to and during 2012.
 - A copy of the power point was made available to members of the Commission.
- Skillman introduced Roberta Brooker, State Librarian, for the purpose of a presentation.
 - Brooker showed a video which outlined some lost footage that had been found in the state library. These videos had significant footage of past events, such as presidential visits and soldiers returning home from war.
 - Brooker then took a few minutes to distribute and describe a document outlining other state's Bicentennial efforts.
 - Some examples of past projects include: Bicentennial poster contest, tool-kit, photo history of the state, Legacy Projects, and Signature Projects
- Bicentennial Nature Trust Update
 - Skillman presented the Commission with 12 projects to date that have been approved by DNR and by a subcommittee of the Commission.
 - The total estimated cost to BNT is \$2,312,022. The total estimated project costs are over \$7,000,000 which is a solid 2:1 match. For every BNT dollar, we're averaging \$2 in match.

- Skillman thanked Commission member Steve Ferguson for his generous land donation.
- Congressman Hamilton thanked Brooker & Melangton for their time and presentations and echoed Skillman's thanks to Ferguson as well.
 - Hamilton wanted the Commission to be aware a recent meeting he had with the Indiana Historical Society. The Society has been working on many 2016 initiatives and would like to work with the Commission on such activities. They have a great deal of outreach all across the state.
 - The Society also offered to host an upcoming Commission meeting and would provide lunch.
 - Hamilton also expressed his interest in continuing to work with the Statewide Community Foundations. Hamilton will be speaking in August at a conference of the foundations and will ask for their support, both monetarily and otherwise.
- Open Discussion
 - Skillman opened the forum by first stressing the group's efforts to secure an executive director. Many discussions have taken place with qualified individuals, and an announcement can be expected soon.
 - Hamilton also reiterated the fact that it is vital to have a strong, organized executive director to lead the group.
 - Sen. Jim Merritt discussed that through the Legislature, he is working to bring together the many foundations established throughout state government. He intends to start a Bicentennial Foundation as well for purposes of monetary donations.
 - Merritt also discussed the importance of having a media campaign to announce the new Bicentennial license plate. One will be scheduled for the fall with the BMV and all Commission members will be invited to take part.
 - Mary McConnell stressed the importance of encouraging all community foundations from around the state to buy into this celebration. She also inquired to Merritt about what other legislative action would need to be taken.
 - PE MacAllister took a moment to stress the importance of a good, working structure for the Commission. One including a strategic plan and timeline.
 - Jim McCormick wanted to include a note to stress the importance of community foundation involvement. He noted that many strong leaders in the community are directly linked to community foundations. He also noted that some areas of the state have regional foundations.
 - Jim Madison brought attention to the fact that many communities have historical societies as well. The Commission should use them as resources and really focus tightly on county-level involvement. He also noted that the Indiana Humanities Council is already working on 2016 activities as well.
 - Howard Cohen pointed out that it was clear that the Super Bowl tapped into an emotion response within individuals. It is important that the Bicentennial tap into a similar feeling among Hoosiers in order to draw them into the celebration.
 - Mickey Maurer cautioned the Commission about taking on too many activities. It is important to do a wide ranging number of activities, but do also ensure that we are

doing them well. He also suggested we focus on activities and projects that will leave a lasting impact.

- Ellen Rosenthal expressed the importance of identifying key audiences the Commission wanted to target during the celebration.
 - Madison suggested that the Commission work to identify a “big” event towards the end of the celebration. He suggested having the President of the United States attend. He suggested that the Commission focus on the “homecoming” theme and encourage Hoosiers who have left the state to return home.
 - Chief Justice Shepard asked the Commission to be thinking about “what are we trying to have occur?” He suggested that the Commission begin to work on a mission statement and vision.
- Lt. Governor Skillman and Congressman Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting will take place on Thursday October 11, 2012.