



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Commission Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Lee Hamilton
Karen Pence
Mary McConnell
Ellen Rosenthal
Steve Ferguson

Commission Members via Telephone:

Becky Skillman
Sarah Evans Barker
Jim McCormick
Randy Shepard
P.E. MacAllister
Jim Merritt

Staff:

Perry Hammock
Rene Stanley
Valeri Beamer
Sam Alderfer

Invited Guests:

Sue Ellsperman – Bicentennial Visioning Project
Norm Heikens – Bicentennial Visioning Project
Jay Hein – Bicentennial Visioning Project
Mike Kase – Madison County Coordinator
Sarah Mitchell – Wayne County Coordinator
Noelle Szydyk – Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay

- Co-chair Lee Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Perry Hammock called roll and noted a quorum was present. Co-chair Hamilton thanked those who were able to join the meeting and moved to the agenda.

Welcome & Introductions

- Shaun Dingwerth, Executive Director, Richmond Art Museum
Shaun thanked the Commission for holding their meeting at the museum and made note of the Museum's Legacy project, an exhibition by noted Indiana plein air artist, Rick Wilson. He invited the Commission to spend time looking at the paintings after the meeting. Shaun has been chosen as an Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay torchbearer and is proud of the Museum and Wayne County for their Bicentennial involvement.



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Task Force on Health and Wellbeing of Indiana Children

- Co-Chair Lee Hamilton

The Children's Initiative now includes 240 youth and education focused projects across the state.

Perry Hammock, Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman participated in public service announcements for the Children's Initiative. They will be aired on WFYI on 7/11, 7/12 and 7/16.

Lee Hamilton challenged all Commission members to take opportunities to talk about the Children's Initiative and let the community take the lead in their projects. Lee stated that Hoosiers are sensitive to the fact that we do good work with young people but we can always do more. We need to emphasize the number of children at Bicentennial events.

Bicentennial Visioning Project

- Sue Ellsperman, Norm Heikens & Jay Hein, Bicentennial Visioning Project

Sue Ellsperman gave a quick update on the Visioning project that included 13 sessions throughout the state and participation by 114 thought leaders. The reporting is completed, the next step is printing 10,000 copies.

Rollout is scheduled for September 7 & 8 with a news conference and banquet.

Jay Hein attended the health and religion sessions and gave great ideas for rollout.

Lee Hamilton thanked Sue, Norm and Jay for the hard work they have demonstrated and how they have showed wisdom and exceeded expectations. Lee states the tough part is implementation.

The Visioning project is the exclusive topic for the Indiana Conference on Citizenship.

Norm is continuing on contract with Sagamore to assist as needed.

Mary McConnell expressed her gratitude and stated that this is the most important body of work of the Bicentennial.

Sue Ellsperman thanked the thought leaders who gave their time unselfishly.

Randy Shepard said this project is a hallmark of the Bicentennial masterfully lead by Sue and Norm.

Sarah Evans Barker was pleased with the achievement and said there is a need to elevate this project to get more attention. There needs to be more than a press release, possibly go to Hoosier Press. The guest list will be a big task and possibly needs a separate task force.

Lee Hamilton said those suggestions will be followed up on.

Becky Skillman stated her congratulations and that she looks forward to seeing the results.

Sue Ellsperman thanked Old National Bank who underwrote the whole project.

Norm will keep the Commission and staff up to date with progress, next steps and roll out details.



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First Lady's Update

- First Lady Karen Pence, Bicentennial Ambassador

First Lady Karen Pence attended the Heltonville Elementary Outdoor Lab with Becky Skillman in Lawrence County.

The Children of Indiana Nature Park Dedication Ceremony was a success.

Mary McConnell spoke about the Gifting Ceremony for the Children's Park. This project has been in the works for 4 years. It helps children feel like they are a part of the Bicentennial. They are given deeds to a piece of land that they can look at online and visit in person.

Lee Hamilton asked if the deeds have a description.

Mary McConnell answered that they have the latitude and longitude and can be viewed at www.ilovemyland.org.

First Lady Karen Pence participated in a Bicentennial quilt unveiling in the Statehouse. The quilt will be in the Statehouse until July 11. This quilt will also be at the Bicentennial booth at the Indiana State Fair. The quilt, titled "Migrations Over the Crossroads of America", was made by Tippecanoe quilter Gloria Klutzke.

First Lady Karen Pence offered thanks and congratulations for the projects that have been completed and the many Legacy projects that have been approved that she gets to visit.

Madison County Update

- Mike Kase, Madison County Coordinator

Mike thanked the Commission for inviting him to present on Madison County. Madison County has 7 good quality Legacy projects including a DAR Cemetery Marker project, "If the River Could Talk" by the Madison County Historical Society and Education Center that gives a historical viewpoint from the White River, a youth focused Cardinal birdhouse project and a hand on field trip to Hoosier Park for school children to learn about horse and agriculture history.

The Torch Relay will be in Madison County on October 14 and will light an eternal flame at Anderson University, do a lap around the track at Hoosier Park and be present during a mural unveiling at Historic Fall Park in Pendleton.

Wayne County Update

- Sarah Mitchell, Wayne County Coordinator

Sarah thanked the Commission for inviting her to speak. Wayne County has 10 Legacy projects including a children's park, cemetery restoration, festivals and the Starr Piano Festival.

Indiana Torch Relay

- Noelle Szydlyk, Indiana Torch Relay



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The selection process for torch bearers is complete. The total number selected is 2,214 with Porter, Lawrence and Wayne Committees having the highest number of selections. Some nominees declined to be torch bearers so the county was in charge of selecting new torch bearers and raising money on their own if they wanted more. Most nominees have been excited.

Next Friday the torch will be passed from Purdue University to the Commission.

Noelle thanked the Commission, staff and Bicentennial County Coordinators for their work and assistance with the organization of the torch relay.

The torch bearer press conference was a success with just under 200 torch bearers in attendance. The uniforms were revealed. The uniforms will not be sold. Noelle appeared on Indy Style to show the uniforms.

The Indiana Bicentennial Experience or mobile visitor's center that will travel with the relay will be opened during the first week of August and at the State Fair. There will be a Grand Opening event prior to the fair, no details yet. The Commission is invited.

The torch will be traveling this summer to promote the relay. The kickoff is scheduled for 10:00am on September 9th in Corydon, IN. The Commission is invited.

Lee Hamilton expressed thanks to the team for the attention to enormous detail.

Sarah Evans Barker thanked Noelle for working on this project. She also asked if the Commission can be added to the list to know about events as they have found out about some things too late to attend. Sarah asked further for Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman to be more involved as the torch relay is happening under their leadership and they were not invited to the press conference for torch bearers.

Noelle stated she will get details out as soon as possible to the Commission members.

Committee Reports

- The Endorsement Committee report was given by Ellen Rosenthal, Chair
 - 86 applications were received from 41 counties and 4 statewide groups.
 - 85 were brought for Commission approval.
 - By pillar there were 4 youth and education, 50 community involvement, 27 historical celebration and 4 nature conservation applications.
 - Ellen Rosenthal made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 85 applications. Becky Skillman second. Motion adopted.
 - Perry pointed out that we have been receiving many applications with little to no relevance to the Bicentennial and have to contact these applicants to get that information. This round the Endorsement Committee actually did not approve 14 but staff and interns were able to contact them and help them better share their Bicentennial relevance.

- Events Committee Report was given by René Stanley



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Hoosier Homecoming details include musical performances, dedications of Bicentennial projects, mascots and food trucks. Hoosier Homecoming will be October 15, 2016 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Bicentennial Gala invite list is being developed. The Bicentennial Gala will be December 10, 2016.

Celebrate Indiana: Ignite the Future will deliver a message from a variety of faith-based perspectives that inspire the next generation of Hoosiers. Ignite the Future will be December 11, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lee Hamilton stated how sensitive the invite list to the Gala is. It is very important that we are careful not to exclude anybody who needs to be there.

First Lady Karen Pence suggested the list come back to this group for input. It is also important that Ignite the Future event has great representation.

Lee Hamilton thanked René and team for the thought and preparation.

Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock

1,202 total Legacy projects represent all 92 counties.

1,385 Legacy and BNT projects combined statewide.

Perry met with the Indiana Society of Chicago and the Indiana Society of Washington, D.C. to get their involvement in the Bicentennial.

The First Day of Issue for the Bicentennial stamp was a great success with over 250 people in attendance.

Bicentennial Porch Parties is a new project idea that calls all Hoosiers to host a celebration in honor of Indiana's Bicentennial to show pride and foster engagement.

Register online at www.indiana2016.org.

- State Fair Update given by Sam Alderfer, Social Media Coordinator

The State Fair will run August 5-21 and the Bicentennial Commission will have a booth inside the Visit Indiana Bicentennial Pavilion. Involvement includes 25,000 wooden nickels for visitors, the Bison-tenennial Public Art Project, digital photography lounge, and the Porch Luncheon for Commission members on the same day as the next Commission meeting, August 19, 2016.

Mary McConnell asked about staffing for our booth. The booth will be staffed by Bicentennial staff, interns, county coordinators and other volunteers/state agencies.

First Lady Karen Pence asked if there will be anything interactive at our booth for people to check out what is going on in their county.

We will have large T.V.'s and wifi so there is potential for an interactive tablet.

- Jim McCormick asked what involvement we have had with the Indiana Pacers. Perry answered that we have had more success with the Indianapolis Colts partnering with us but the Torch Relay has involved the Pacers.

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- Becky Skillman stated that being only 5 months out, we should be proud of our progress and how much has been accomplished. Other states have not been so lucky with a great Commission and staff.
- Mary McConnell mentioned that Jim Madison is in “Hoosiers”, a series on Indiana on PBS that is available online, and did a great job.
- Randy Shepard asked about the records kept for the Centennial Commission and how we are going to assemble the records of the Bicentennial.
- Lee Hamilton stated that this is something we have been thinking about and we will need to discuss this further.
- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

August 19, 2016

Indiana State Fair Administration Building

1202 E 38th St.

Indianapolis, IN 46205

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.