



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Commission Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman
Lee Hamilton
Sarah Evans Barker
Steve Ferguson
Jim Madison
Tony George
Jim McCormick
Jim Merritt
Charlie Brown
Ellen Rosenthal
Randy Shepard
Brenda Gerber Vincent

Staff:

Perry Hammock
Rene Stanley
Valeri Beamer
Sam Alderfer

Invited Guests:

Jessica Robertson – Commissioner, Indiana Department of Administration
Lisa Hendrickson – Editor, Indiana at 200

- Co-chair Becky Skillman called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Perry Hammock called roll and noted a quorum was present. Co-chair Skillman thanked those who were able to join the meeting and moved to the agenda.

Welcome & Introductions

- Becky Skillman, Co-chair, Indiana Bicentennial Commission
Becky thanked the Commission members for attending the last Commission meeting of 2016! To commemorate the tenure of the Commission, a video was shown from the January 2011 Mitch Daniels State of the State Address, where he announced the creation of the Commission. The first meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission was the day after the address.

Capital Projects Update

- Jessica Robertson, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Administration



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Jessica thanked the Commission for their hard work and noted that it has been an honor to work with them.

The dedications of the Education Center and Bicentennial Plaza took place on October 15 at Hoosier Homecoming. Both projects were completed on time and under budget. With the construction of Bicentennial Plaza came updates for utilities and infrastructure for future years.

The new state Archives building project is scheduled to be presented to the budget committee on December 15. Their approval is needed before moving to the construction phase.

James Madison asked if the financing is a sure thing. Jessica answered that there has been some unexpected hurdles but she is optimistic that we will get approval.

Becky Skillman added that contracts and packets will be discussed at this December meeting.

Sarah Evans Barker asked that they be kept up to date on the progress.

James Madison added that it would be a tragedy if this is not completed and motioned for a resolution.

Sarah Evans Barker suggested a resolution to move it along. Jessica responded that they have worked diligently and are ready to go once approved.

Jim Merritt talked about the flood in 1994 and that he has been working on this ever since. He committed to the Commission that it would be completed.

Becky Skillman asked if Commission members should be present at this December meeting. Jim Merritt answered no.

Sarah Evans Barker stated that Jessica has done heroic work on our capital projects and if she can please report back with news.

The motion was withdrawn by James Madison

Lee Hamilton asked that the Commission members be called upon if needed.

Bicentennial Nature Trust

- Perry Hammock on behalf of Mark Becker

Perry gave the Bicentennial Nature Trust report for Mark Becker as Mark just had a baby.

The numbers have not changed. There are 184 approved projects from 66 different counties that include 11,096 acres!

There is still a little money left to allocate due to withdrawn projects. Mark anticipates they will complete all acquisitions by the end of 2017.

70% of funds were granted to non-state partners including local parks, land trusts, trails groups, etc. 25+ projects had support from local community foundations.

The 1st wait list is exhausted, additional back-up projects were solicited for consideration in December.

Perry asked for a round of applause for the work Mark has done on the Bicentennial Nature Trust.



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Lee Hamilton suggested Commission members know details about these projects so they can accurately be explained.

James Madison asked how this can continue beyond 2017. Sarah Evans Barker seconded that it needs to be extended and it is time to have conversations about it.

Perry closed with how successful the Bicentennial Nature Trust has been and what a track record it has!

Bicentennial Final Report

- Perry Hammock and Lisa Hendrickson

Perry welcomed Lisa and thanked her for taking on the Bicentennial final document. Lisa stated that she was excited to be working on this project and that sales with our book, *Indiana at 200* have been well, Costco even reordered!

Lisa discussed ideas for the final document including an official summary of activities and events, the signature projects and the legacy projects in each county. It will include 248+ pages, text and images, foreword by the Commission members, list of Commission members, volunteers and staff and a table of contents.

Perry brought to attention a document that was passed out to all Commission members. It includes 1 Legacy project from each county. We need to discuss how to document the Legacy projects. Lisa welcomed suggestions.

Charlie Brown asked about an electronic link. Lisa said there will be one available.

Ellen Rosenthal gave her input as chair of the Endorsement Committee that there is a lot of room for consolidation and that each one of them does not need to be listed separately. We need to think about what people will be looking for exactly.

Becky Skillman asked if the Bicentennial County Coordinators will be involved because they might have a different idea of how they want their county documented.

Sarah Evans Barker seconded the need for county input. She also asked about a box set since this will make 3 books we have commissioned.

Ellen stated the need for the future to understand our intent with the Legacy projects and the 4 pillars we have worked hard to incorporate.

Lee Hamilton thanked Lisa for the tremendous work she has done for the Commission and named 3 things that need to be kept in mind as we move forward with this final document. 1. This needs to be an extremely detailed historical document. 2. There needs to be an executive summary that acts as a slick PR piece that is widely distributed and appealing. 3. The Commissioners need a talking points summary to accurately discuss this project. Lee concluded by stating we are creating the record of the Bicentennial Commission and it will have a lasting legacy on future generations of Indiana.

Steve Ferguson asked Perry what was most helpful in the Centennial book that we have used for reference. Perry answered that the biggest thing was that it was motivational to those who needed ideas and inspiration.



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Rene Stanley added that referencing the Centennial book helped with Hoosier pride and encouraged the Legacy project concept to move forward.

Lee Hamilton asked each Commission member to think about what stands out to them and what strengths and weaknesses are.

Perry is sending out a document to the county coordinators to fill out about their experience to wrap up.

Sarah Evans Barker suggested a panel discussion with editing and a court reporter with the Commission members.

Lee offered doing this at one of the Commission meetings in 2017.

Sarah Evans Barker stated that there wasn't a budget to give the general assembly our last book and that we should take this opportunity to give them a set. She asked Charlie for his input.

Charlie Brown said logistically it might be difficult, should we include the new ones that are coming in now or those that were there at the beginning? We just need to discuss details.

Committee Reports

- The Endorsement Committee report was given by Ellen Rosenthal, Chair
 - 96 applications were received from 28 counties and 2 statewide group.
 - 96 were brought for Commission approval.
 - By pillar there were 10 youth and education, 47 community involvement, 34 historical celebration and 5 nature conservation applications.
 - Ellen was thrilled to have received so many projects in the last round. She highlighted the Indiana State Museum's project with the Levi Coffin House and called attention to Susannah Koerber in the audience and her work with this project and on the Endorsement Committee.
 - James Madison encouraged all Commission members to visit the Indiana State Museum and see their Bicentennial exhibits because they are great!
 - Ellen seconded that and also stated that other local institutions have great exhibits as well.
 - Ellen asked for the Commission's approval for all 96 legacy projects. Becky Skillman asked for a second. Sarah Evans Barker second. Becky asked those in favor to say aye. The projects were approved.

- Events Committee Report was given by Brenda Gerber Vincent & Rene Stanley
 - The Bicentennial Gala is this Saturday, December 10 and all Commission members are encouraged to attend. Ignite the Future is Sunday, December 11 and Commissioner presence is encouraged at this event as well.
 - Brenda Gerber Vincent spent a few minutes finalizing details for the Commission members.
 - Rene passed out the run of show for both events.



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Attendance at the Gala is expected to be nearly 700. There is reserved seating for Commission members on the floor for those attending.

Charlie Brown asked if the torch relay documentary can be purchased. Perry answered that it will be available through the Indiana Office of Tourism Development.

Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock
 - 1,467 total Legacy projects represent all 92 counties.
 - 1,650 Legacy and BNT projects combined statewide.
 - We now have 268 Legacy projects focused specifically on youth.
 - Don't forget the Statehood Day program right after our meeting at 12:00 p.m. at the Statehouse.
 - There are three meetings scheduled for 2017. Becky Skillman asked for input on having a meeting in January.
 - Lee Hamilton saw no reason to have a meeting in January, so it was removed from the calendar.
 - We will have two meetings in 2017. April 7 and June 30.

- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

April 7, 2017

Indianapolis, IN

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.