



Indiana Bicentennial Commission
Board Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2015

Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman
Lee Hamilton
Karen Pence
Randall Shepard
Jim Merritt
James Madison
Ellen Rosenthal
Sarah Evans Barker
Charlie Brown
Tony George
P.E. MacAllister
Mary McConnell
Howard Cohen-via telephone
Steve Ferguson-via telephone

Staff:

Perry Hammock
Rene' Stanley
Valeri Beamer
Sam Alderfer
Ariana Smith
Adrienne Smith
Rachel Beliles

Guests:

Eileen Carroll-Butler University
Alison Zajdel-COPE Environmental Center
Steve Campbell-Marion County Coordinator
Timothee Pourpoint-Purdue University
Meredith Bullock-Assistant to the First Lady

- Co-chair Becky Skillman called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Perry Hammock called role 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

- Perry Hammock welcomed Commission to the Indiana State Library. Perry then introduced new staff members, Adrienne Smith and Rachel Beliles. Staff members and staff roles handout was included in Commissioners' packet of material.



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Board Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2015

Health and Wellbeing of Children Initiative and Resolution Update

- Co-chair Lee Hamilton read over and summarized the resolution to the commission.
After resolution is accepted, Becky Skillman will work with Karen Pence to implement the roll out.
Lee Hamilton moved to adopt. Jim Merritt second. Commission voted upon and passed.
Becky Skillman had meeting with Governor's office
Sarah Evans Barker says to maximize impact we must have a strategy by using press and making the Bicentennial theme a priority.
Sarah Evans Barker suggests a committee or strategic task force to work on visualizing and implementing.
Lee Hamilton is in support of this idea under Becky Skillman's leadership.
Mary McConnell volunteered to be on committee, feels it can be related to Indiana Children's Bicentennial Park.
Jim Madison still wants to do baby boxes in 2016.
Jim Merritt feels we need focus in the resolution. Lee Hamilton said he would be working on that. Jim Merritt volunteered to be on the committee.
Ellen Rosenthal volunteered to be on committee.
Howard Cohen volunteered to be on the committee.
There needs to be time at the next meeting to devote to delivering a plan.

The Gifts of Indiana Legacy Project

- Eileen Carroll, Butler University
Each Commission Member present received a book.
This Legacy Project was the first under the Youth and Education Pillar. Books will be distributed across the state by the Governor and First Lady as they visit 4th grade classrooms.
Proceeds from the book will go towards underwriting next year's student project.

First Lady's Community Visits

- Karen Pence, First Lady
Karen Pence is planning to visit one Legacy Project county per month across the state. The goal is to visit 20 counties by the end of the Bicentennial year.
The first visit was in Goshen, IN, Elkhart County where she visited the famous Olympia Candy Factory, the Heritage Trail and the Old Bag Factory.
Karen met the Elkhart County Coordinators who were very enthusiastic about their projects.

Bicentennial Visioning Project

- Congressman Lee Hamilton



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Board Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2015

Under the direction of the Lt. Governor, this project will focus on where Indiana will be 50 years from now.

Editor, Norm Heikens will begin this summer with interns to aid.

Lee Hamilton asked of the Commission to submit names of people who are big thinkers and have vision.

Mary McConnell suggests a geographical diversity of the submitted names.

Lee Hamilton will get categories to all members of the Commission as requested by Sarah Evans Barker.

Children of Indiana Nature Park: A Celebration of the Hoosier Bicentennial

- Mary McConnell of the Commission and Alison Zajdel of COPE Environmental Center
 - There is a disconnect between children and nature and this project hopes to reengage the two.
 - Indiana was a leader with State Parks in 1916.
 - This project will allow children in Indiana to get a ceremonial deed to a piece of ground in the COPE Nature Center and look, via the internet, at their land and watch as it changes through time.
 - The plot of land is located in Centerville, IN, Wayne County.
 - 16 nature preserves have partnered with COPE on this project to deliver a curriculum and activities.
 - Cope Environmental Center has a goal of getting every child within an hour's drive to a Nature Preserve.
 - They hope that Indiana will once again become a leader for State Parks.

Marion County Report

- Steve Campbell, Marion County Coordinator
 - Marion County is home to many statewide organizations, so activities are more complex.
 - They are discussing possibly route options for the Torch since there are so many sites they could pass. They will have a selection committee to pick their torch bearers.
 - Steve is working on different groups to reach out to including the Marion County Fair and the Indiana Black Expo.
 - Marion County has many Legacy Projects that they are proud of and continue to submit applications.
 - Steve is a member of the planning committee for Indianapolis's Bicentennial in 2020.
 - Sarah Evans Barker encouraged that we capitalize on conventions, national media and Visit Indy.
 - Mary McConnell suggested using JW Marriott to display decal of the torch.



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Board Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2015

Committee Reports

- Book Committee report given by James Madison.
 - There has been lots of participation and enthusiasm about the book.
 - Book is now in the design stage.
 - There were over 6,000 photo entries for the contest to be included in the book.
 - M.T. Publishing Company of Evansville is publishing the book.
 - Lisa Hendrickson has been a driving force.
 - Sarah Evans Barker suggested all members of the Commission get leather bound books and sign each others.

- Endorsement Committee report given by Ellen Rosenthal and Valeri Beamer
 - 98 applications were received from 43 counties and 7 statewide.
 - 93 were brought for Commission review.
 - 12 first time applicant counties include: Porter, Whitley, Madison, Henry, Fountain, Vermillion, Putnam, Hendricks, Johnson, Floyd, Vanderburgh, Daviess.
 - By pillar there were 8 youth and education, 35 community involvement, 39 historical celebration and 16 nature conservation applications.
 - Ellen Rosenthal made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 93 applications. Tony George second. Co-chair Skillman called the vote. The motion carried with no dissent.
 - Valeri updated Commission on 4 changes to the Endorsement process. Blanket endorsements, Pre-screening by Valeri and Perry, relevance to Bicentennial and voting forms will be filled out on submissions with questions.

- Diversity Committee report given by Charlie Brown and Rachel Beliles
 - Indiana is a very diverse state already.
 - Need to define what we are looking for in Diversity Projects
 - Rachel mentioned notable projects and gave list of all current Diversity projects.
 - Becky Skillman mentioned how the current projects are of good geographical spread.

- Bicentennial Torch Relay report given by Dr. Timotheé Pourpoint
 - The Purdue team has designed three different torches including a handheld torch, racer torch and kid's torch.
 - Dr. Pourpoint showed video of the torch flame with 200 mph winds.
 - Mary McConnell questioned whether the torch will be patented.
 - Jim Merritt asked where the torch or torches will rest for the next 100 years.
 - Sarah Evans Barker thought Bicentennial Plaza would be a good location.
 - Randy Shepherd showed an article in the newspaper seeking torch bearer applicants.

- Capital Projects report given by Jessica Robertson



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Board Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2015

They will begin waterproofing the underground government tunnels in July to prepare for Bicentennial Plaza construction.

Budget meeting is in July.

IDOA is partnering with Indiana Arts Commission on art submissions.

Education Center in the Indiana State Library will partner with Conner Prairie.

Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock.

426 total projects in 80 out of 92 counties. 44 counties have both a Legacy Project and Bicentennial Nature Trust project.

County coordination is on target and progress is ongoing.

The focus of the next round of county visits will be on counties without Bicentennial Legacy Projects.

Perry will be sending list out to Commissioners to ask who we may have missed getting a meeting with.

Newsletter is being updated and we add new subscribers almost daily.

Sarah Evans Barker wants to get out articles once per month and connect with the Hoosier Press and Newspaper Association. Need to work on Earned media.

Lee Hamilton wants to review PR efforts and up our game with PR. States everything that was discussed in Commission meeting was news worthy.

Sam Alderfer updated the Commission on Social Media outreach.

Ariana Smith discussed readymade press releases.

René Stanley spoke on counties without coordinators and that there are meeting planned with all counties that don't have projects.

Sarah Evans Barker mentioned that someone needs to be in charge of strategizing the next phase of getting the Bicentennial Book out to state legislators, libraries, Schools, Governor, etc.

- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

July 31, 2015.

Leora Brown School – Corydon, Indiana

9:30am-11:30am