



2016 Indiana Bicentennial Commission

April 22, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

Commission members and staff present:

- First Lady Karen Pence
- Former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
- Former Congressman Lee Hamilton
- State Rep. Charlie Brown
- Howard Cohen – via conference call
- Steve Ferguson
- PE MacAllister
- James Madison
- Mickey Maurer
- Mary McConnell
- Jim McCormick – via conference call
- State Sen. Jim Merritt
- Chris Jensen
- Perry Hammock
- Deborah Wezensky

II. Committee Reports

a. **Bicentennial Nature Trust – Mark Becker**

- 79 projects approved
 - 46 different counties
 - \$13.8 million BNT, \$19 million match
 - \$1 : \$1.38 matching ratio
- 31 closed/completed for a total of 4,344 acres protected
- Uncommitted available balance: \$16.2 million
- February 1, 2014 Round
 - Ten (10) applications, of which eight (8) were approved including 3 local parks, 3 DNR Fish and Wildlife, and two (2) land trusts.
 - Three (3) new counties: Floyd, Kosciusko and Vigo for a total of 46 counties.

b. **Endorsement Approvals – Chris Jensen**

- The second group of Applications was reviewed – 21 total, from 9 counties: Tippecanoe, Harrison, Orange, Bartholomew, Shelby, Hamilton, Sullivan, Elkhart and Marion.
- Seventeen (17) were approved by the Board on the recommendation of Endorsement Committee: Colleen Smyth, Indiana State Museum; Pam Bennett,



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Indiana Historical Bureau; Jesse James, volunteer, NiSource; Ellen Rosenthal, Conner Prairie; Chris Jensen and Deborah Wezensky, Indiana Bicentennial Commission.

- A detailed list of Approved Bicentennial Legacy Projects for Quarter 1, 2014 was provided for commission board members and will be posted at www.indiana2016.org.
- Each endorsed bicentennial Legacy Project receives Letter of Endorsement, Indiana Bicentennial logos and logo use guidelines.
- Bicentennial county coordinators are being contacted in desk-side visits to gain their support so that each of Indiana's 92 counties has at least one endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Project.

- Categories for Quarter 1 2014 submitted projects:
 - Nature Conservation – 0
 - Youth & Education – 11
 - Community Involvement – 7
 - Historic Celebration – 3

Next Application for Endorsement deadline: June 30, 2014

c. Torch Relay – Mark Newman

- The 92-county bicentennial torch relay will be September to October (6 weeks) event.
- The bicentennial torch relay committee has been working with Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Police and Maribeth Smith & Associates to determine the torch relay route. To date, approximately 30 percent of the route has been mapped.
- Two additional all-day joint meetings will be held to determine the total torch relay route. The route will be checked for efficiencies, places of significance and overnight stop locations.
- There will be a registration process to identify bicentennial torch bearers for the relay. Criteria for choosing the volunteers are being determined and bicentennial county coordinators will also have input.
- Bicentennial torch relay timeline:
 - In September 2014 the route will be shared with bicentennial county coordinators.
 - November 1, 2014 will soft launch Bicentennial Torch Relay website



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- December 11, 2014 Official announcement of the Bicentennial Torch Relay. Volunteers will be able to access the Bicentennial Torch Relay website to sign up.
- December 1, 2015 Bicentennial Torch Relay merchandise goes on sale.

IV. New Business

a. **Perry Hammock**

- Discussed private funding campaign for capital projects in partnership with the Indiana Department of Administration and the Governor's Office.

b. **Capital Projects**

- Approved Signature projects:
 - Torch Relay with enduring light on the state house grounds
 - Bicentennial Nature Trust conservation properties including Children's Park
- Proposed Signature Projects:
 - Bicentennial Plaza – physical legacy of the Bicentennial. Counties could be represented; for example, limestone map with county historic sites and the Torch (enduring light). [Renderings attached – very early concepts.]
 - Capitol Education/Welcome Center – Creation of an Education and Welcome Center on the government campus. Literacy and learning focused with interactive exhibit for young visitors to the state house. [Rendering]
 - Archives Solution – Protecting and preserving the state's valuable documents - possibly including digitalization
- Additional Signature Projects:
 - Bicentennial Book
 - Bicentennial Coin
 - Bicentennial Art Project
 - Bicentennial Gala
- After board discussion, Mickey Maurer made a motion that the Commission endorse, as a final list, signature projects listed:
 - Approved Signature Projects
 - Bicentennial Nature Trust including the Children's Park
 - Bicentennial Torch Relay
 - Proposed Signature Projects



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- Bicentennial Plaza
 - Capitol Education and Welcome Center
 - Indiana State Archives Solution
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 - Bicentennial Gala
- State Rep. Charlie Brown seconded the motion. The board of commissioners voted unanimously to endorse the finalized list (above) as Indiana Bicentennial Signature Projects.
- c. Time Capsule** – Mickey Maurer posed the idea of a bicentennial time capsule to be opened at the tercentennial in 2116. The most recent time capsule was placed in the state house by the Indiana American Revolution commission in 1976. It will be opened in July 4, 2075.
- d. Diversity in the bicentennial** – Upon input from the audience about ensuring that Indiana’s bicentennial celebration engages all Hoosiers, State Rep. Charlie Brown offered to lead a committee dedicated to include diverse groups, such as the African American community, in Indiana’s bicentennial. The committee would also include Dr. Jim Madison and Steve Ferguson with the goal to work across the state to be purposely engage communities and organizations to make the bicentennial a diverse and inclusive celebration.
- e. Bolster Indiana’s connection with Abraham Lincoln** – Congressman Lee Hamilton suggested that Indiana step up to the plate with its claim on one of America’s greatest heroes – Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln spent his formative years in Spencer County, Indiana – from age four to 21.

2014 Indiana Bicentennial Board Meeting Schedule

Dates for 2014 Board Meetings: Fridays at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- May 23, 2014
Roosevelt Ballroom, Fort Harrison State Park Inn
5830 N. Post Road Indy 46216
- July 11, 2014
- August 22, 2014
- October 3, 2014
- November 14, 2014
- January 16, 2015