



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Commission Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2015

Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman
Lee Hamilton
Jim McCormick
Randall Shepard
Ellen Rosenthal
Tony George
Mary McConnell
Steve Ferguson
Jim Merritt
Sarah Evans Barker
Jim Madison
Brenda Gerber Vincent

Staff:

Perry Hammock
Rene Stanley
Valeri Beamer

Invited Guests:

Amanda Becker – Publishing Liaison, MT Publishing
Lisa Hendrickson – Editor, Indiana at 200

- Co-chair Becky Skillman called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. René Stanley called roll and Co-chair Skillman noted a quorum was present. Co-chair Skillman thanked those who were able to join the meeting and moved to the agenda.

Special Recognition by Co-chair Becky Skillman to Lee Hamilton

- The Commission's own Lee Hamilton was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A standing applause was given to Congressmen Hamilton as congratulations.

New Commissioner Introduction by Co-chair Becky Skillman

- The Commission welcomed Brenda Gerber Vincent of Fort Wayne to the Commission.

Statehood Day Business

- Perry Hammock, Executive Director
After the Commission meeting, the commissioners will be escorted to the Statehouse where seats will be ready for them next to the stage for the Statehood Day presentation. There will be 500 4th graders at the Statehouse, State Library, Indiana



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State Museum and the Historical Society participating in the presentation. The Bicentennial Commission has a booth. The torch for the torch relay will also be unveiled.

Task Force on Health and Wellbeing of Indiana Children

- Co-Chair Lee Hamilton

The Lt. Governor's Visioning Project is going well. 9 of 12 sessions will be completed by December 17. The Lt. Governor will give a report at the next Commission meeting. Bicentennial Baby Caps in Boone County are ready to go. They will be given to every newborn baby in 2016 in Boone County. Sample of hats was shown. This announcement should be featured in the Zionsville newspapers.

Perry Hammock met with the Indiana Hospital Association and they are turning in two projects focused on infant and community health.

The Department of Health will submit a project on families.

The Indiana Association of United Ways is spearheading the statewide Bison-Tennial art project.

There are 130 Youth and Education Legacy projects across the state.

Junior Achievement is reaching out to high school students' community-wide to help them pursue careers and realize their potential.

Sarah Evans Barker agreed there is a lot of participation. The Governor is also acknowledging children at the Statehood Day presentation. She continued with reminding Commission members to remember the resolution and to bring it to the attention of the service clubs in Indiana.

State Parks Centennial

- Becky Skillman, Co-chair

The State Parks system in Indiana is celebrating 100 years! On December 16, 2015, the public is invited to attend 3 events.

McCormick's Creek State Park at 7:30 a.m.

Statehouse South Atrium at noon

Turkey Run State Park at 4:00 p.m.

There are 12 parks with endorsed Legacy projects

First Lady's Update on County Visits

- René Stanley, Deputy Director

First Lady Karen Pence recently visited Vigo County.

She spent time at Griffin Bike Park and rode bikes along the trail and met the producers of the Bellwether films. Both Griffin Bike Park and Bellwether are endorsed Bicentennial Legacy projects.



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Lee Hamilton brought up the article in the Indianapolis Star and urged Legacy projects be pushed into the spotlight.

Pam Bennett Recognition

- The Commission recognized Pam Bennett, Director, Indiana Historical Bureau for the years of work and friendship she has given the state. Her efforts here been invaluable to the Commission and it looks forward to her continued participation in Indiana's Bicentennial. Lee Hamilton closed by stating, "History gives Hoosiers a sense of pride".

Committee Reports

- Endorsement Committee report given by Ellen Rosenthal
80 applications were received from 49 counties and 2 statewide.
79 were brought for Commission review.
All 92 counties in the state have a Legacy project!!
By pillar there were 6 youth and education, 33 community involvement, 31 historical celebration and 9 nature conservation applications.
Ellen Rosenthal made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 79 applications. Sarah Evans Barker second. Co-chair Skillman called the vote. The motion carried with no dissent.
Ellen Rosenthal set a new goal of 1000 Legacy projects before the Bicentennial is celebrated in December of 2016.
Sarah Evans Barker wants to make sure we all emphasize our grassroots effort as the central idea. Thanked those for their work to get these projects in.
Becky Skillman made mention of the many projects in the planning stages that the Bicentennial Nature Trust helped put in motion.
Perry Hammock stated that there are other states that are not as far along as our Commission has come, and that this is truly a grassroots effort.
Lee Hamilton and Jim Madison recognized Lisa Hendrickson and her hard and diligent work on our commemorative book. The Commission is proud of the book; it is truly Indiana's book. No essayist turned down the offer to participate.
Amanda Becker gave an update on book sales. There are over 2700 in hands and in stores.

Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock.
744 total projects in 92 out of 92 counties. 64 counties have both a Legacy Project and Bicentennial Nature Trust project.



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Sarah Evans Barker suggested that each Commissioner be assigned to a couple of committees for each of the major events coming up. Perry Hammock will get a list out. René Stanley gave brief report about lunch with Senator Lugar and the Lugar Leadership Series and her presentation to children and their parents about the Bicentennial. Valeri Beamer gave brief report on the Indiana Minority Business Magazine. The magazine's first quarterly issue of 2016 is on the Bicentennial and highlights business professionals including 2 Bicentennial staff.

Remember to nominate a torch bearer.

Thanks to MacAllister Machinery for sponsoring the Bicentennial flags. They are selling out at the Indiana Historical Bureau. There needs to be a broader reach to make sure everyone who wants one is able to get one.

Each town that received a flag also received a proclamation to read at noon December 11, 2015, and a draft press release.

Becky Skillman pointed out there are many counties having celebrations today. There are multiple press releases going out today and earned media is at an all time high.

New Bicentennial intern, Sarah Correll, will be spearheading the Bicentennial Marketplace that will be online very soon.

Jim Madison questioned what kind of filter will there be for those who want to submit something for the Marketplace. Perry reassured that there will be filters in place.

The Bicentennial stamp will be issued in June, 2016.

There will be a mobile post office to help promote the stamp. Also they will promote when the torch passes through each county.

Jim Madison explained that the postal service made all decisions about the stamp.

Ellen Rosenthal suggested we commemorate the first airmail delivery by balloon.

Can we have a post or memorial at the location the stamp photo is taken?

Perry Hammock pointed out that the stamp photo will connect with Hoosiers as most Hoosiers have a connection to a farm.

Sarah Evans Barker questioned if there will be a value to a set of Indiana stamps.

The Bison project is underway and every county will receive one through United Way.

Perry Hammock met with the Indiana Society of Washington, D.C. They are going to submit a couple of Legacy projects. Perry has also met with the Indiana Society of Chicago.

The medal is in production and orders are being taken. 2300 stand up posters are expected to be in bank branches in the next week. MT Publishing is doing the fulfillment.

Perry Hammock also met with the Indiana Congressional Delegation.

Lee Hamilton suggested they insert Bicentennial materials into its published records, then congress will know we are celebrating.



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Sarah Evans Barker thought they should get suggestions for projects relating to children. Encourage them to do something Bicentennial. Also Colleges and Universities should be notified and asked how they can participate in the Bicentennial.

Lee Hamilton suggested reaching out to magazines that are always looking for articles. Also Mayors, religious leaders, etc. Each Commissioner should get their name on a news article.

Ellen Rosenthal suggested highlighting Legacy projects.

Indiana Arts Commission Legacy Projects

- Lewis Ricci and Nancy Stewart, Indiana Arts Commission

The Indiana Arts Commission presented an overview of the Arts Commission and its celebration of 50 years in 2016.

Lee Hamilton questioned how they are going to brand these events to be specific to the Bicentennial.

Lewis Ricci answered all projects will use the Bicentennial logo and be showcased on the Indiana Bicentennial website and Indiana Arts Commission website as projects for the Bicentennial.

Perry Hammock informed the Commission that all 111 projects of the Indiana Arts Commission will be endorsed Legacy projects increasing the total numbers appropriately.

Lewis Ricci and Nancy Stewart expressed thanks for including the cultural world and for growing the relationship between art and parks.

- Jim Merritt asked who should be credited for the Boone County Baby Caps. René Stanley answered the Boone County Senior Services is spearheading it.
- Becky Skillman suggested knitting clubs get involved and having utility companies sponsor baby caps.
- Sarah Evans Barker stated the Baby Bundles need more traction and a jump start.
- Jim Merritt asked what legislators can do as January and February are important months.
- Sarah Evans Barker suggested a Bicentennial day for legislators with the book, medal and flag. Becky Skillman and Lee Hamilton can present our case to them.
- Becky Skillman suggested Jim Merritt draft a resolution he and Charlie Brown could introduce.
- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

January 8, 2016

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Fort Wayne History Center