



## Indiana Bicentennial Commission

### Commission Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2016

#### Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman  
Lee Hamilton  
Sarah Evans Barker  
Jim Madison  
Mary McConnell  
Jim Merritt  
Jim McCormick  
Ellen Rosenthal  
Randy Shepard  
Brenda Gerber Vincent

#### Commission Members via Telephone:

Charlie Brown  
Steve Ferguson

#### Staff:

Perry Hammock  
Rene Stanley  
Valeri Beamer  
Sam Alderfer  
Jylian Vigar

#### Invited Guests:

Nancy Carlson – Delaware County Coordinator  
Jane Hammock – Boone County Coordinator  
Jo Wilson Wade – Tippecanoe County Coordinator  
Mark Becker – Bicentennial Nature Trust  
Lewis Ricci – Indiana Arts Commission

- Co-chair Becky Skillman called the meeting to order at 9:35 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

- Tom King, President & CEO, Indiana State Museum & Susannah Koerber, Senior Vice President of Collections and Interpretations, Indiana State Museum  
Tom thanked the Commission for returning to the Indiana State Museum for the Commission meeting.  
Susannah explained the two Bicentennial exhibitions that are currently at the State Museum and invited the Commission to join her after the meeting for a tour of the “200 Objects” exhibit.



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#### Bicentennial Visioning Project

- Co-Chair Lee Hamilton

Lee Hamilton gave an update on the Bicentennial Visioning Project. The report is almost complete. Lee is happy to send the draft to any Commission members who want to look at it.

It was suggested that Sue Ellsperman and Norm Heikens be added to the agenda for the next Commission meeting to report on the Visioning project.

#### Task Force on Health and Wellbeing of Indiana Children

- Co-Chair Lee Hamilton

The Children's Initiative now includes 249 youth and education focused projects across the state.

Perry Hammock, Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman will be participating in public service announcements for the Children's Initiative today. WFYI is providing free creative services.

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.

Sarah Evans Barker suggested using language that is uplifting and will carry on to the next generation. There needs to be something that shows imperative so that the moment doesn't get lost.

Becky Skillman suggested recruiting the help of the Association of Indiana Counties and the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns.

Lee Hamilton would like to sum up the Children's Initiative at the next Commission meeting and discuss how to extend it throughout the life of the Commission.

Ellen brought up the New York Times article about America and how there needs to be improvement in how we take care of our children.

Jim Madison brought up the Children's Nature Park and its uses.

Mary McConnell invited the Commission members to the Children of Indiana Nature Park Gifting Ceremony on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. EST at Cope Environmental Center at 4910 Shoemaker Rd., Centerville, IN 47330.

#### Delaware County Update

- Nancy Carlson, Delaware County Coordinator

Nancy thanked the Commission for inviting her to speak about Delaware County's Bicentennial activities. She provided the program from Delaware County's latest endorsed Legacy project, "Middletown USA presented by Masterworks Chorale". 1000 people attended this event.

Delaware County has many Bicentennial projects and continue to work on more.



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They have a large bison that will be painted behind glass so that the public can watch the progress. They also have a small bison that travels the county with them. Sarah Evans Barker encouraged Nancy to take back to her committee the idea of making youth projects a priority.

#### Boone County Update

- o Jane Hammock, Boone County Coordinator

Jane thanked the Commission for inviting her to present on Boone County. Jane provided samples of items from Boone County that are being sold on the Bicentennial Marketplace. Including pottery, prescription bottle Bicentennial stickers and Indiana shaped chocolate.

Boone County had the privilege of knitting 400 Bicentennial baby caps including the cap that “Babe”, the Commission’s own small bison wears.

Boone County has over 40 torch bearers for the Torch Relay. They recently opened the 100 year old time capsule and working on filling the next capsule to be opened in 100 years from now.

#### Tippecanoe County Update

- o Jo Wilson Wade, Co-coordinator

Jo thanked the Commission for having her attend and present on behalf of the Tippecanoe County Coordinator, Sue Scholer.

Tippecanoe County has 20 Legacy projects and they plan on submitting more. They are home to now 5 Bicentennial bison and have many plans for them.

One big project they are working on is the Bicentennial Public Art Gateway Sculpture on downtown.

They are having a celebration for the people who were not selected to be torch bearers as they had 150 nominations from the county! Jo asked for suggestions on what to name the celebration.

Mary McConnell and Sarah Evans Barker suggested Bicentennial County Champions. Sarah Evans Barker asked Jo to work on getting a poster or plaque put up for the Tippecanoe County Justices.

#### Capital Projects

- o Perry Hammock, Executive Director, on behalf of Jessica Robertson, IDOA Commissioner  
Bicentennial Plaza is on time and in budget, expected completion is October, 2016.  
The Education Center at the State Library is moving along.  
Groundbreaking for the new Archives Building is the next project.

#### Committee Reports

- o The Endorsement Committee report was given by Ellen Rosenthal, Chair



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106 applications were received from 47 counties and 6 statewide groups.

104 were brought for Commission approval.

By pillar there were 13 youth and education, 52 community involvement, 33 historical celebration and 6 nature conservation applications.

Ellen Rosenthal made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 104 applications. Lee Hamilton second. Motion adopted.

Ellen Rosenthal suggested to the Commission that we take a poll of how many total Legacy projects we think we will have at the last meeting.

Sarah Evans Barker congratulated progress and brought up when the Commission's goal was for 200 projects.

Perry Hammock mentioned how much spread we have across the state with these projects and how much involvement there really is.

- Bicentennial Nature Trust report given by Mark Becker, DNR

183 projects have been approved including 2 projects promoted from waiting list in March. There are 109 closed/completed.

There are BNT projects in 66 counties.

They will continue to fund the wait list projects, which includes 3, as funds become available. Working with applicants to accelerate or abandon any "stalled" projects.

Mark Becker stated a project dedicated yesterday included the 50,000<sup>th</sup> acre preserved since 1967. This dedication would have never happened without the BNT.

Sarah Evans Barker asked how this land will be used.

Mark Becker answered that it will be used for school tours, Boy Scout projects and will be open to the public.

Becky Skillman asked how a project gets moved from the waitlist.

Mark Becker answered that some aren't able to close or they are approved under budget. They should be able to fund the rest of the projects on the waitlist. It will be very competitive if we have the opportunity to include more projects.

Jim Madison asked if there are any plans to continue BNT after the Bicentennial.

Mark Becker answered that there is desire among legislators to continue it.

Sarah Evans Barker suggested using T.C. Steele in Brown County to get extra funding and expand attraction to T.C. Steele.

The Commission asked Mark to please express gratitude to all those involved with these BNT projects.

- Events Committee Report was given by Brenda Gerber Vincent, Chair

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 and sponsors and emcee is still being secured. The Bicentennial Gala will be December 10, 2016.



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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.

Sarah Evans Baker suggested the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra as a performance if still needed.

Brenda Gerber Vincent discussed the sponsorship packet that each Commission member was given that includes an introduction letter from Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman and a listing of all Commission members. Brenda asked Commission members to familiarize themselves with this packet and what is needed.

Brenda listed partners who have given already.

Brenda challenged the Commission members to 3 tasks:

Set up 2 meetings for sponsorship opportunities that Perry can come along or take the lead on.

Secure your own sponsorship either personal or corporate.

We need 100% of Commission members to participate financially.

#### Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock

1,117 total Legacy projects represent all 92 counties.

1,300 Legacy and BNT projects statewide

Over half of the counties in Indiana submitted a Legacy project this round. (In the last 6 weeks).

The First Day of Issue for the Bicentennial stamp will be June 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Commission members were given a formal invite. Invitations will be mailed next week.

Sarah Evans Barker asked if Commission members get a stamp.

Perry answered that they should.

We are working to partner with the Colts for merchandise, commemorative goods and possibly wooden nickels with bicentennial branding. We are also working on getting national exposure during the September 11 and December 11 home Colts games.

Sales of the Bicentennial Commemorative book has reached 3,000 while the Bicentennial Commemorative medal has more than 2,500 sold and the Bicentennial flag has more than 1,400 sold.

Bicentennial Marketplace is in 31 counties with 87 Marketplace vendors and 177 products.

The Bicentennial social media has a potential reach of 4.1 million.

The location for the August 19 Commission meeting is still pending but don't forget lunch on the pavilion at the administration building on August 19, 2016 at noon for all Commission members.

We are asking the public to send short, 15 second videos saying "Happy Birthday, Indiana" that we will begin posting to social media at 200 days out. Commission members received the flyer that will be distributed.



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Chocola is a partner and each Commission member was given a can!

#### Governor's Arts Awards

- Lewis Ricci, Executive Director, Indiana Arts Commission  
The Governor's Arts Awards were held April 9, 2016. Lewis Ricci passed out the program to all Commission members.  
Over 350 dignitaries, citizens, guest presenters and performers were in attendance. Indiana Arts Commission is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Lewis showed the new video for it. <https://youtu.be/tLv7lo2teu4>.  
Lewis thanked the sponsors, Barnes & Thornburg and Upland Brewing.
- Becky Skillman invited the Commission members to share any Bicentennial stories or experiences they have had.
- Sarah Evans Barker participated in the religious session for the Visioning Project. Sarah also congratulated Jim Madison on being named a Living Legend by the Indiana Historical Society.
- Ellen Rosenthal participated in an Art Camp hosted by Susan Brooks for the Bicentennial. The winning photograph represented Indiana's Bicentennial well.
- Randy Shepard was one of two speakers for a lecture series in Allen County on the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lincoln family arrival in Indiana.
- Jim Merritt serves on the State Fair Commission and State Museum Board of Trustees and was able to visit the "200 Objects" exhibit at the State Museum. He stated that State Government is very involved.
- Lee Hamilton asked if we can get past Governors involved in a discussion of past and future.
- Susannah Koerber is going to check if this was already recorded and send it to Commission.
- Becky Skillman, Lee Hamilton and Perry Hammock have many speaking engagements for the Bicentennial across the state. Becky and Perry have the opportunity to be judges for Miss Indiana and Miss Teen Indiana.
- Jim Madison stated WFYI PBS stations have documented the history of Indiana and will broadcast in July with many Commission members in it.
- Lee Hamilton thanked Perry and his staff for their continued work in generating Bicentennial activity. It has been amazing.
- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

#### The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

July 8, 2016

White County Courthouse

110 N. Main St.

Monticello, IN 47960

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.