

**INDIANA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**February 26, 2024**

Commission Members and/or their Representatives Present: Tom Whiteman, Charlotte Blair, Bruce Kolb, Sheila Corcoran, Robert Sloman, Dustin Warren (accompanied by his wife Elizabeth), Ted Frantz, Tamara Hemmerlein, Elizabeth Bostelman, Mandy Montgomery, Joe Wiltrout, Nicole C. Owens, Ashley N. Lovett, Brig. Gen. J. Stewart Goodwin, and IDVA Director Dennis Wimer.

A quorum of 10 ISC members were present (ISC By Laws Section X).

Members of the IDVA present: Gabrielle Owens

The meeting of the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission (ISC) was called to order at 1:00pm by Co-Chairs Charlotte Blair and Thomas Whiteman. The meeting was held at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and The American's Creed.

The meeting was started by the Co-Chairs and a brief review of our Commission members and a welcome and introductions from our members.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair discussed the Patriot Pierre Charles L'Enfant, and Co-Chair Tom Whiteman discussed the history of Col. George Rogers Clark and the 245<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Sackville on February 25, 1779.

The Secretary gave a brief report, minutes were read, and accepted.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the financial status of the ISC and gave the Treasurer's report. Report accepted.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman led a discussion of the website that went live on December 16, 2023. The date was chosen in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.

The Secretary gave a summary of the granting of 501(c)(3) status to the ISC and approval from the Indiana Department of Revenue. All tax returns for the year ending 2023 have been filed.

The Secretary gave a summary of HEA1274 the Indiana Semiquincentennial License Plate bill and answered questions regarding the amount to be received by the ISC for each plate sold.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the Senate Concurrent Resolution supporting the work of the ISC. The resolution was presented by Sen. Qaddoura.

IDVA member Gabrielle Owens gave an update on the ISC's appropriated funds that are currently held by the IDVA. A Grant agreement is being finalized for 2024/2025 calendar year that would transfer the funds to the ISC.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman spoke on the ISC’s Annual Report that was distributed to the member of the Indiana General Assembly as required by law, and the potential participation this coming November’s 2024 annual Veterans’ Day activities with the Veterans’ Day Council of Indianapolis.

Co-Chair Tom Whiteman spoke on the Donations Page and led a lengthy discussion on how the levels of donation should be configured, and whether directed giving is an option. Differing payment platforms were discussed as well as a monthly giving option. The projected go-live date is May 20, 2024.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the County Committees and how she is finding contacts in all 92 counties. The target for completion is this fall. These 92 contacts would provide her a list of events to be placed on the ISC website. Currently many counties have already had events supporting the Semiquincentennial.

A discussion was initiated by Tamara Hemmerlein of the Indiana Historical Society regarding the US250 Meeting Series. The “Meeting Series” is listed on the Indiana Historical Society website under <https://indianahistory.org/across-indiana/local-history-services/meetings/>. The Indiana Historical Society’s Local History Services Department and Indiana Humanities have teamed up to have a series of FREE virtual and in-person meetings throughout this year in preparation for the U.S. Semiquincentennial.

Break

Individual Committee Meetings were held and followed their respective agendas.

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm.

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Tom Whiteman, Co-Chair	Date
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Charlotte Blair, Co-Chair	Date
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