

**INDIANA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**May 20, 2024**

Commission Members and/or their Representatives Present: Tom Whiteman, Charlotte Blair, Bruce Kolb, Senator Jeff Raatz, Representative Matt Lehman, Robert Sloman, Ted Frantz, Beth Brandon, Ben Olsen, Nicole Owens, Elizabeth Bostelman, Tamara Hemmerlein, Mandy Montgomery, and Brig. Gen. J. Stewart Goodwin.

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

Members of the IDVA present: Gabrielle Owens.

Guests: Kevin O'Keefe and Zach Akers of Tyler Technologies and Kurt Ashburn and Ana Kotchkoski of Hirons.

The meeting of the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission (ISC) was called to order at 1:06pm by Co-Chairs Charlotte Blair and Tom 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 Tom Whiteman discussed the Declaration of Dependence where 547 loyalists in New York declared their loyalty to the Crown and Great Britain in November of 1776.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair discussed a recent seminar she attended on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and spoke on a letter written by Thomas Jefferson June 24, 1826, to the Mayor of Washington D.C. and his inability to attend the commemoration ceremonies.

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

Co-Chair Charlette Blair spoke on the financial status of the ISC and gave the Treasurer's report. The report was read and accepted.

A presentation was given by representatives of Tyler Technologies on the ISC website with specific emphasis on the donation pages. The go live date for accepting donation is set for June 1, 2024. It was decided that the ISC will cease to accept ISC Website Partial Payment towards awards on April 1, 2026, to accommodate the winding up of all accounts. The question was raised as to whether the fundraising page was mobile friendly and there will be a follow up conversation to ensure that it is. A motion was made to accept the additions to the webpage and the acceptance of the go live date of June 1, 2024. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Representative Matt Lehman gave an update on the Cincinnati Insurance Agency's ISC "Pillar" Insurance Policy. A motion was made to renew the Policy in August. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Representative Matt Lehman also gave an update on the ISC license plate (in progress and on time), and the Indiana General Assembly funding for the 2025-2026 legislative budget session. Representative Lehman suggested that members of the ISC speak with Representative Thompson and Senator Mishler regarding the continued appropriation of funding for the ISC.

A presentation was given by representatives of Hirons. The presentation covered the services that the ISC could potentially purchase. They included organic social media posts, table tents, poster/flyer for download, three overview videos of the celebration and fundraising efforts, one radio script, suggested email copy that can be used in local communications, and an FAQ sheet focused on the fundraising efforts. Hirons would provide the ISC Fundraising Communication Material along with Project Management Support of 288 hours to meet ISC administrative needs. The Project Management portion would cost \$33,120, and the Creative Development would cost \$51,880. Questions were raised regarding who has the rights to all created materials are the property of ISC, whether Hirons will assist in fundraising efforts, whether they will create a QR code (currently the ISC has one), and whether Hirons will clarify the delineation of county donations versus ISC donations. Answers will be gathered for further discussion in August at the next ISC meeting. A motion was made to move forward with the services provided by Hirons but committing only one third (1/3) of the \$51,000 allocated through August of 2024 including 288 hours of service with a reassessment of the agreement at the next ISC meeting. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the February 13, 2024, ISC Resolution that was unanimously passed by the House and Senate. Copies will be provided to the ISC members in August.

Co-Chairs Charlotte Blair and Tom Whiteman spoke on the completion of the Grant Agreement between IDVA and the ISC. The agreement was completed on April 30, 2024, and the first year's (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) Indiana General Assembly ISC funding (\$50,000) has been transferred and deposited. Efforts are underway to process the second year's (July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025) Indiana General Assembly ISC funding as soon as achievable after July 1, 2024.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the progress made with the County Committees and how they are established and the flow of communication to all 92 counties. It was mentioned that the Indiana Historical Society's Local History Services Department and Indiana Humanities have teamed up to present a series of free virtual and in-person meetings throughout the year in preparation for America250.

Co-Chair Charlotte Blair spoke on the American Battlefield Trust traveling display regarding their battlefield preservation efforts, and she will have further information on dates and locations in Indiana.

Break

Individual Committee Meetings were held and followed their respective agendas.

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:08pm.

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Tom Whiteman, Co-Chair	Date

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Charlotte Blair, Co-Chair	Date