



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Commission Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman
Karen Pence
Tony George
Mary McConnell
Brenda Gerber Vincent

Commission Members via Telephone:

Lee Hamilton
P.E. MacAllister
Sarah Evans Barker
Charlie Brown
Ellen Rosenthal

Staff:

Perry Hammock
Rene Stanley
Valeri Beamer

Invited Guests:

Elise Alabbas – Allen County Committee
Megan Bell – Allen County Committee
Russ Gilliom – Whitley County Coordinator
June Julien – Steuben County Coordinator
Sheryl Prentice – Noble County Coordinator
David Ober – Noble County Coordinator
Todd Maxwell Pelfrey – Executive Director, Fort Wayne History Center

- 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.

Indiana Visioning Project

- Norm Heikens, Editor/Project Manager, Visioning Project
Norm gave updated report on the Visioning project.
Sarah Evans Barker questioned the topic of religion. The Commission agreed it would be a discussion topic but is not on the list as presented. It will cause a great gap if not added. We need a diverse group to weigh in.



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Lee Hamilton stated that cultural groups have been added even though they are not specifically religion; they are still trying to fill this gap. Agreed the group should be diverse.

Perry Hammock has met with religious leaders. He will work with Lee Hamilton on next steps to get these groups involved.

Mary McConnell asked about some of the big ideas from this project. Norm stated it is too soon to share the meeting results.

Lee Hamilton thanked Norm and the Lt. Governor for efforts on this project.

Task Force on Health and Wellbeing of Indiana Children

- Co-Chair Lee Hamilton

Lee Hamilton expressed his intent to offer a second resolution on the health and wellbeing of Indiana children to further energize the progress already made.

There have been many projects endorsed and we have the Governor's support and the support of our many partners including Lilly, Sagamore Institute, Junior Achievement, and the Department of Education. This has created a lot of momentum.

The new resolution will offer thanks to organizations already doing something.

It will also focus on two other things: Indicate key issues facing Indiana's children and urge public and private sectors to help children.

The new resolution is not policy. Lee Hamilton will have a draft out soon and comments will be welcomed.

Sarah Evans Barker suggested the second resolution should aptly muster the data and with the Bicentennial in mind, have a trajectory of improvement.

We need to be future thinking for the children of Indiana.

Becky Skillman mentioned the series of op-eds that will be coming out. Ellen Rosenthal and Sarah Evans Barker are co-authoring one on children.

First Lady's Update

- Karen Pence, First Lady

First Lady Karen Pence updated the Commission on events and projects she is working on.

The First Lady's office submitted 2 legacy projects this round including a Bicentennial rug donation to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis and the First Lady's 2016 Bicentennial China. Another approved project is the 1816 Tea with the First Lady.

Mrs. Pence passed out information on the First Lady's Luncheon and noted sponsorship opportunities are still available. This luncheon will raise money for the new State House Visitor Center sponsored by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission.

Mrs. Pence and Perry Hammock will also be featured on Hoosier History Live to discuss the Bicentennial.



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Allen County Update

- Elise Alabbas and Megan Bell, Allen County Bicentennial Committee
Allen County has a 21-member Bicentennial Committee lead by County Coordinator, Curt Witcher.
They have 18 endorsed Legacy projects with many more being planned.
Sarah Evans Barker asked if there will be any projects involving Johnny Appleseed.
Megan said at their Winterval event in January there will be a Johnny Appleseed ice sculpture.
Becky Skillman made note that Allen County's projects are very diverse and they have a strong presence in the Bicentennial.

Whitley County Update

- Russ Gilliom, Whitley County Coordinator
In period dress, Russ updated the Commission on Whitley County's 5 Legacy projects which include a Civil War book and camp, and 1860's dance and celebration.
Russ mentioned having trouble getting local schools involved.
Sarah Evans Barker questioned that schools have not been a Bicentennial priority and that the Department of Education needs to be followed up with.
Perry Hammock has met with the Department of Education on several occasions and there are 150 projects endorsed for students and teachers.
Russ stated the trouble he is having is that teachers are already jam packed with curriculum and testing and lessons and don't have a lot of extra room or time to fit in Bicentennial material.

Steuben County Update

- June Julien, Steuben County Corrdinator
June passed out materials that relate to Steuben County's Legacy projects.
They have been adapting projects and activities already in place for the Bicentennial.
Steuben County has 10 Legacy projects including a Bicentennial balloon, Civil War Days, Architour in Angola and a church tour.
Visit www.lakes101.org.

Noble County Update

- Sheryl Prentice, Noble County Co-Coordinator
Noble County has 11 Legacy projects and is working on submitting more. Legacy projects include 7 projects about Gene Stratton-Porter and an Indiana Humanities ALL-IN Block Party.



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Events & Galas

- Perry Hammock, Executive Director
 - Hoosier Homecoming will be October 15, 2016 on the Statehouse Campus.
 - Indiana at 200: The Bicentennial Gala will be December 10, 2016 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.
 - The Bicentennial Celebration will be December 11, 2016 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Committee Reports

- Bicentennial Nature Trust report given by Mark Becker
 - There were 31 applications received for this round. That's twice the highest number ever received!
 - Total approved BNT projects is now 181.
 - New counties with BNT projects this round are Posey and Fulton.
 - Funds have been expended with the new projects, so there is a waiting list for applications.
 - Lee Hamilton thanked Mark Becker and those who have helped in making the Bicentennial Nature Trust such a success.
- Endorsement Committee report given by Ellen Rosenthal
 - 42 applications were received from 26 counties and 2 statewide.
 - 42 were brought for Commission review.
 - All 92 counties in the state have a Legacy project!!
 - By pillar there were 7 youth and education, 21 community involvement, 14 historical celebration and 0 nature conservation applications.
 - Lee Hamilton made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 42 applications. Lee Hamilton asked if the commissioners were all in favor. All were in favor and approved the projects presented.

Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock.
 - 914 total Legacy projects represent all 92 counties. 66 counties have both Legacy and Bicentennial Nature Trust projects.
 - There are 200 individual cities and towns with Legacy projects.
 - The Bicentennial flag reached 560 towns.
 - We are working on a summer project to have Bicentennial banners for parades and fairs.
 - The Medal will be shipping this month.



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2015 Bicentennial Commission and staff accomplishments include: budget approval, Children’s Initiative, BNT, Legacy projects, Torch Relay, marketing, county coordination, Bicentennial kickoff, key partnerships, diversity programming, *Indiana at 200*, commemorative medal, flags & proclamations, Bison-tennial art project, commemorative stamp, Bicentennial marketplace, SuperService, and Legislative Delegation Participation.

- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

February 19, 2016

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location TBD