



Indiana Bicentennial Commission
Board Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2015

Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman
Lee Hamilton
Karen Pence
Jim McCormick
Randall Shepard-via telephone
James Madison
Ellen Rosenthal-via telephone
Charlie Brown
Tony George
Mary McConnell
Steve Ferguson-via telephone

Staff:

Perry Hammock
Valeri Beamer
Rachel Beliles

Invited Guests:

Maxine Brown-Founder and President, Leora Brown School
Pamela Bennett Martin-Harrison County Coordinator
Sharon Wilson-Crawford County Coordinator
Imojean Dedrick-Orange County Coordinator
Jeanne Burke-Clark County Coordinator
Mark Becker-DNR
Mrs. Karen Bauserman's 5th grade choir class-Corydon Intermediate School
Bruce Beesley-State Historic Sites at the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

- Co-chair Becky Skillman called the meeting to order at 9:30 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

- Maxine Brown welcomed Commission and audience to the Leora Brown School. Maxine spoke about the history of the school and handed out a summary document to Commissioners. Mrs. Karen Bauserman's 5th grade choir class from Corydon Intermediate School then sang two songs for the Commissioners.



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Board Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2015

Health and Well-Being of Indiana Children Initiative and Resolution Update

- Co-chairs Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman

Becky Skillman met with Shelley Triol in the Governor's Office on July 22nd to bring her up to speed about the resolution that was adopted at the last Commission meeting and to discuss the launch. Now the focus is on the roll out and launch to call on all Hoosiers to think about the health and well-being of Indiana children as they showcase programs that are already in place and adopt policies going forward.

Need to think about the best time for announcements and press conferences with the Governor.

Tuesday, October 27 is scheduled as the launch of the initiative with the Governor. Erin Norton from the Office of the Governor has been assigned to us to assist.

Lee Hamilton suggested everybody needs to think about the health and well-being of children in their own county and what can be done because there is always room for improvement.

Charlie Brown pointed out that children are more likely to start smoking cigarettes when they smoke a hookah, which has been increasing in use in younger children.

Becky Skillman visited the Greene County General Hospital and reported on the Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles.

Becky Skillman stated that southern Indiana has higher infant mortality rates than the rest of the state and that Greene County is trying to combat this by distributing the Baby Bundles. They are getting funding and donations from the community.

Mary McConnell suggested we let other counties know about the Baby Bundles in Greene County so that they are inspired. Perry Hammock will follow up on this with staff.

Jim Madison suggested marketing as “Bicentennial Baby Bundles”.

Bicentennial Visioning Project

- Lee Hamilton, Co-chair

The Visioning project is to get Hoosiers to think about where Indiana will be 50 years from now, the changes coming and how we can be ready for them.

Lee Hamilton advised 400 names have been submitted as thought leaders in the state. Additional suggestions are welcome.

Dates have been set in 11 areas around the state.

Overall, the project is well underway.

First Lady's Community Visits

- Karen Pence, First Lady

Karen Pence is planning to visit one Legacy Project county per month across the state.

The goal is to visit 20 counties by the end of the Bicentennial year.



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Board Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2015

The second visit was in Bedford, IN, Lawrence County where she visited the Stonegate Arts & Education Center, Stone Cutter Café, and toured Bedford in the Bicentennial Bus. Karen met the Lawrence County Coordinator who is very enthusiastic about the county's projects.

Harrison County Update

- Pamela Bennett Martin, Harrison County Coordinator, and Jeremy Yackle, Harrison County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director
Harrison County has many events and celebrations planned for 2016 including a time capsule and restoration of the first State Capitol.
Pamela and Jeremy brought pins for the Commissioners with their Bicentennial logo.

Crawford County Update

- Sharon Wilson, Crawford County Coordinator
Sharon submitted two legacy projects while at the meeting, the first two of the county. Crawford County has a lot to offer for celebrations and legacy projects and Sharon plans to submit as many as she can for endorsement.

Orange County Update

- Imojean Dedrick, Orange County Coordinator
Orange County is kicking off the Bicentennial year on February 1st, which is Orange County's birthday.
They are working with Dubois and Lawrence Counties for the torch relay and a Bicentennial Ball.

Clark County Update

- Jeanne Burke, Clark County Coordinator
Clark County is home to the second oldest town in Indiana, Clarksville.
Legacy project ideas include the Clark County Museum and plaque and the Buffalo Trace.

Super Service

- Rachel Beliles, IBC on behalf of John Mellinger, Visit Indy
The Bicentennial Commission is working with the Super Service hospitality program to engage and bring tourism to Indiana during the Bicentennial year.
This program was implemented when Indy hosted the Super Bowl.
Its purpose is to train the individuals working in customer service roles to communicate with tourists about the state and be knowledgeable about the Bicentennial.

Committee Reports



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Board Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2015

- Book Committee report given by James Madison.
 - The new extended deadline to pre-order is August 30th.
 - It is planned to be in Barnes & Noble's bookstores.
 - The book is scheduled to be done and available in November.

- Endorsement Committee report given by Perry Hammock on behalf of Ellen Rosenthal
 - 56 applications were received from 32 counties and 6 statewide.
 - 55 were brought for Commission review.
 - 5 first time applicant counties include: Cass, Pulaski, Adams, Shelby and Washington.
 - By pillar there were 6 youth and education, 25 community involvement, 24 historical celebration and 0 nature conservation applications.
 - Charlie Brown made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 55 applications. Jim Madison second. Co-chair Skillman called the vote. The motion carried with no dissent.

- Diversity Committee report given by Charlie Brown and Rachel Beliles
 - Total of 57 projects in 24 counties.
 - The diversity projects are bringing organizations together and leaving legacies.
 - Some organizations want to take Indiana's Bicentennial international.
 - We have 6 statewide diversity projects with 7 more planned.

- Marketing Committee report given by Co-chair Becky Skillman
 - The marketing/strategic plan needs to be redistributed to Commission; Perry will follow up on this.
 - Becky Skillman suggests the Commission review the marketing plan and send advice back on how to move forward.
 - We need to raise awareness county by county.
 - There has been progress but perhaps falling behind in public relations.
 - Becky Skillman to meet with Governor's office and discuss who we should reach out to.

- Bicentennial Nature Trust report given by Mark Becker
 - The most recent round of projects ended May 1.
 - 13 projects in 5 new counties.
 - Lee Hamilton asked about the southern part of the state where there is a strip without any BNT projects. Mark Becker stated there are many parks and protected land in that area.
 - Lee Hamilton questioned about the funds left and the timeline, Mark Becker answered that the funds are all expected to be committed by early or mid 2016.

Executive Director's Report



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Board Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2015

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock.
 - 494 total projects in 83 out of 92 counties. 52 counties have both a Legacy Project and Bicentennial Nature Trust project.
 - County coordination is on target and progress is ongoing.
 - The focus of the next round of county visits will be on counties without Bicentennial Legacy Projects.
 - Perry will be sending list out to Commissioners to ask who we may have missed getting a meeting with.
 - Newsletter is being updated and we add new subscribers almost daily.

- Indianapolis Star Bicentennial article
 - Co-chair Lee Hamilton suggested meeting about the recent article in the Indianapolis Star.
 - The committee needs to think through the current public relations and take on a more affirmative approach.
 - Mary McConnell suggested developing a PR approach and taking the offense.
 - Jim Madison stated no great topics are reflected in the article.
 - Charlie Brown feels there is an accurate account of how money is spent so we shouldn't worry.

- Bicentennial Torch Relay
 - Mary McConnell gave update on Torch Relay happenings.
 - They are not receiving enough torch bearer nominations.
 - Commission challenge-nominate 1 person in home county as a torch bearer.
 - Charlie Brown questions how long it will take for the torch to cross each county.
 - Mary McConnell states the torch will mostly be driving in a vehicle and hit highlights for short amount of time.

- Jim McCormick passed out the Knox County Bicentennial meeting minutes and discussed one of their legacy projects, the Watermelon Drop.

- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

September 18, 2015

Lake County Public Library

1919 West 81st Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410

9:30am-11:30am CST