



## Indiana Bicentennial Commission

### Board Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2015

#### Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman  
Lee Hamilton-via telephone  
Jim McCormick-via telephone  
Randall Shepard  
Ellen Rosenthal-via telephone  
Charlie Brown  
Tony George-via telephone  
Mary McConnell  
Steve Ferguson-via telephone  
P.E. MacAllister-via telephone  
Howard Cohen  
Jim Merritt

#### Staff:

Perry Hammock  
Valeri Beamer

#### Invited Guests:

Carol Daumer Gutjahr-Head of Merrillville Branch, Lake County Public Library  
Larry Blanchard and Katie Holderby-Lake County Coordinator and Co-Chair  
Karen Wilson-Jasper County Coordinator  
Larry Lyons-Newton County Coordinator

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

- Carol Daumer Gutjahr welcomed the Commission to the Lake County Public Library on behalf of all staff. Representative Charlie Brown thanked the Commission for traveling to Lake County and offered 2 handouts about Lake County.

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

- Co-chairs Lee Hamilton and Becky Skillman  
Becky Skillman and Perry Hammock met with several agencies and the Governor's Office.  
We have secured date of October 27, 2015 for announcement, which the Governor will make.



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Becky Skillman has asked Erin Norton, the special staff member assigned to us, for an update.

Legislators have not yet been contacted.

Lee Hamilton provided a PowerPoint presentation about Indiana's children.

Lee discussed 3 concerns from the data:

The National and State Average child poverty rate is 22%. Many counties in Indiana are at or higher than this rate.

A majority of Indiana children are at a rate of 21% and higher for food insecurities.

Indiana is below the U.S. average for preschool enrollment.

Lee Hamilton stated there is a lot of good work being done and we need to recognize and commend those who are doing that work.

There is a lot more to do though.

With the support of Governor Pence and the credibility the Bicentennial Commission has because of its membership, we need to inform people of the challenges, get the information out to the state, lend support and urge serious participation.

Charlie Brown questioned what the goals for the launch are.

Becky Skillman answered that we have to determine how much the Commission can accomplish and what yet has to be done.

Next Steps: **Get task force together with Governor's Office members in the next couple of weeks.**

**The next Commission meeting is right after the launch in Indianapolis on October 27, 2015.**

#### Lake County Update

- o Larry Blanchard, Lake County Coordinator, Katie Holderby, Lake County Co-Chair, Michael Griffin, City of Highland Clerk-Treasurer, and Doug Ross, The Times Media Group

Lake County has many projects endorsed already and continues to work on more. There are plans to beautify the entry point to Lake County, a county complex, and the Library. Michael Griffin, Clerk-Treasurer and Lake County Commission member is submitting paperwork for yet another legacy project. He passed out 20-star flags for the Commission members.

They want to kick-off by flying the Bicentennial flag and the 20 star flag to show their pride and legacy projects.

Doug Ross, The NW Times is working on a microfilm project with the State Library to provide PDF's of Lake County genealogy.

They are all also working on a museum artifacts project, a Korean War Veterans project and a photo book, partnering with the Historical Society.

Mary McConnell proudly stated Indiana's Northwest is the most biologically diverse area in the State of Indiana.

#### Jasper County Update



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- Karen Wilson, Jasper County Coordinator and Sheila Schroeder, Jasper County Co-Chair  
Jasper County just had their first Legacy project endorsed.  
They are working on submitting other including school projects, planting tulips, Jasper County magazine, James Hanley Park and Dutch Town.  
The committee wants to work with each town in the county to get their feedback.

#### Newton County Update

- Larry Lyons, Newton County Co-Coordinator  
Newton County is the youngest county and is home to George Ade, playwright.  
They just had their first Legacy project endorsed and plan on submitting more.

#### Marketing Plan Update

- Becky Skillman, Co-Chair  
Becky Skillman and Lee Hamilton wrote an Op-Ed on the Bicentennial effort that has been published in many newspapers throughout the state.  
The marketing plan has been updated.  
BAR Communications will assist with earned media across state markets and take the lead for all things marketing.

#### Committee Reports

- Endorsement Committee report given by Ellen Rosenthal via telephone  
80 applications were received from 40 counties and 5 statewide.  
80 were brought for Commission approval.  
7 first time applicant counties include: Newton, Jasper, Tipton, Jennings, Ohio, Crawford, and Perry.  
By pillar there were 10 youth and education, 30 community involvement, 34 historical celebration and 5 nature conservation applications.  
Ellen Rosenthal made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 80 applications. Charlie Brown second. Co-chair Skillman called the vote.  
The motion carried with no dissent.  
Randy Shepard reminded Commission that a summary of the Legacy projects needs to be reviewed before the vote.
- Diversity Committee report given by Charlie Brown  
Charlie Brown thanked Rachel Beliles for working on diversity during her summer and for the work that she did.  
Currently partnering with over 60 diversity oriented organizations with at least one project.  
Estimated 80-100 Legacy projects with a diversity emphasis by December 11, 2015 kickoff.



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- Book Committee report given by Perry Hammock
  - Final review of the book is next week.
  - So far, 750 copies of the book have been sold.
  - We will have the book by the October 27 meeting.
  - Mary McConnell suggested Lisa Hendrickson be invited to the next Commission meeting.

#### Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock.
  - 574 total projects in 88 out of 92 counties. 54 counties have both a Legacy Project and Bicentennial Nature Trust project.
  - The focus of the next round of county visits will be on counties without Bicentennial Legacy Projects.
  - We want to have all counties on board with Legacy projects by kickoff.
  - We had more meetings with agencies the past 6 weeks to prepare for the Children's Initiative.
  - Bicentennial Marketplace in the works. It will be a place for Indiana vendors to do business with Indiana people. Currently working on production and help.
  - The vendor has been selected for the commemorative medal. Should be able to take order by mid-November.
  - Perry to send counties without projects note about getting them in before December 11 meeting.
- Jim Merritt wanted to know about a conference call on the children's initiative before the next meeting. Becky Skillman answered that there should be one with all Commissioners after the Governor's office meeting with the task force for the Initiative.
- Randy Shepard gave Commission update on Torch Relay. Lt. Governor Ellsperman announced Subaru as vehicle sponsor for Torch Relay. The State Police are driving the route now. IOTD needs more Torch Bearer nominations. PSA's from First Lady Pence will increase interest.
- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM CST.

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

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Indianapolis

Location TBD

10:00 a.m. after Children's Initiative Launch