



Indiana Bicentennial Commission

Commission Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Becky Skillman
Lee Hamilton
Mary McConnell
Brenda Gerber Vincent
Sarah Evans Barker
Ellen Rosenthal
Randy Shepard

Commission Members via Telephone:

Jim McCormick
Charlie Brown
Steve Ferguson

Staff:

Perry Hammock
Rene Stanley
Valeri Beamer
Sam Alderfer
Adrienne Smith
Jylian Vigar
Clint Walker

Invited Guests:

Sarah Kesterson – Hancock County Coordinator
Jessica Robertson – IDOA Commissioner
Lea Ann Camp – Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles
Teresa Hutton – Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles
Kyle Cross – Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles
Melissa Abbott – Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles
Mark Newman – Torch Relay
Noelle Szydlyk – Torch Relay
Tom King – President & CEO, Indiana State Museum

- Co-chair Becky Skillman called the meeting to order at 9:40 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 State Museum & Historic Sites

- Tom King, President & CEO, Indiana State Museum



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Tom thanked the Commission for visiting the museum for the meeting. The State Museum & Historic Sites is very involved in the Bicentennial. The Torch Relay is beginning in Corydon. Every Historic Sites location has a Bicentennial Legacy project. Some of the Bicentennial exhibits the museum will have include Quilts, Indiana art, and Indiana objects. Long term Bicentennial projects include museum construction and improvements at many of the historic sites.

Task Force on Health and Wellbeing of Indiana Children

- Co-Chair Lee Hamilton

Becky Skillman updated the Commission on the Senate and House readings of the resolution honoring the Bicentennial Commission. Lee Hamilton provided a follow up to the Visioning Project. There is a Religion session in April as discussed the last Commission meeting. The report will be coming out in late July. The Lt. Governor will follow this project after leaving office. The list of Bicentennial accomplishments is quite impressive from the last several years. These accomplishments can be used as talking point to the public and at speaking engagements. The new resolution is an addition to the Children's resolution already in place. It was drafted by Lee Hamilton, Becky Skillman and Sarah Evans Barker. Lee Hamilton called the resolution to vote and moved to approve. Sarah Evans Barker second. Becky Skillman declared the resolution adopted. Sarah Evans Barker questioned the next steps for "lift off" of this resolution. We need a strategy to help with PR and a sub-group of the Commission to get this out to the state. Lee Hamilton agreed and will certainly make sure this happens. Perry Hammock has steps underway with IPBS and free PSA's. Sarah Evans Barker suggested using billboards for advertisement. Perry Hammock has looked into this and the cost is very high. If anyone has connections, it can be looked into again. Mary McConnell and Sarah Evans Barker discussed a "tagline" for the Children's project.

Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles

- Lea Ann Camp, Teresa Hutton, Kyle Cross & Melissa Abbott

This project from Greene County focuses on reducing the infant mortality rate. Green County has a very high infant mortality rate, higher than Indiana's. The "Sweet Dreams" name was chosen because good sleep practices and prenatal care are taught to all who receive a baby bundle. They will deliver the first bundles in April.



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Mary McConnell questioned how they are getting the word out that this is available to pregnant women and families.

There are pamphlets available to the public and in physician's offices. They also advertise at fairs and in the local papers.

Sarah Evans Barker expressed encouragement for this program. It is preparing the next century of Hoosiers.

Lee Hamilton thanked the baby bundles team and noted that this project is a remarkable display of leadership to the county and state.

Hancock County Update

- Sarah Kesterson, Hancock County Coordinator

Hancock County has been working hard since July on Bicentennial projects. They have a small committee lead by County Coordinator, Sarah Kesterson.

They are proud to have a photo in the Commemorative Bicentennial book and encourage all Legacy projects to have Bicentennial "flavor".

Hancock County has 13 Legacy projects and plans to have plenty more.

They plan on purchasing a bison and having it painted by artists and children.

Sarah Evans Barker suggested the committee meet with the local hospital about a baby bundles project similar to the Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles in Greene County.

Torch Relay Update

- Mark Newman & Noelle Szydlyk

We are 202 days away from the lighting of the torch!

Mark Newman discussed the significant increase in PR to promote the Bicentennial and the Torch Relay. It will leave quite a robust footprint.

Every county in the state submitted at least a dozen torch bearer nominations. The deadline was January 31.

Ball State University will travel with the torch and provide telecommunications support.

Sarah Evans Barker asked if children will be involved in the relay.

There are children who will be carrying the torch and will be at the finale in Indianapolis.

Noelle reviewed the visitor center schedule and how it won't be able to visit every county but will be available to view after the torch relay.

They are continuing to build excitement!

Capitol Projects

- Jessica Robertson, Commissioner

The Bicentennial Plaza construction is underway and planned to be completed in September, 2016.

The Education Center construction will begin soon with completion also being this fall.



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The Archives location is confirmed and design is beginning. This location will start a great collaborative with IUPUI and the State.

Sarah Evans Barker asked about a display area for the public.

There will be some space for displays and the stacks will also be visible. This location could also increase attendance to the Indiana State Museum.

Sarah Evans Barker suggested collaboration with the Madame Walker Theater.

Jessica believes this location will start a good cultural space with community and student focus.

Committee Reports

- Endorsement Committee report given by Ellen Rosenthal
 - 143 applications were received from 53 counties and 7 statewide.
 - 143 were brought for Commission review.
 - By pillar there were 31 youth and education, 60 community involvement, 45 historical celebration and 7 nature conservation applications.
 - Ellen Rosenthal made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to endorse all 143 applications. Sarah Evans Barker second. Motion adopted.
 - Will work on Indiana map of children's projects and their location around the state.

Executive Director's Report

- IBC report given by Perry Hammock.
 - 875 total Legacy projects represent all 92 counties.
 - 1056 Legacy and BNT projects statewide
 - We are working on a summer project to have Bicentennial banners for parades and fairs.
 - 2015 Bicentennial Commission and staff accomplishments include: budget approval, Children's Initiative, Legacy projects, Torch Relay, marketing, county coordination, Bicentennial kickoff, key partnerships, diversity programming, *Indiana at 200*, commemorative medal, flags & proclamations, Bison-ennial art project, commemorative stamp, Bicentennial marketplace
- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

The next meeting of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission:

April 8, 2016

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Columbus Visitor's Center

506 5th St., Columbus, IN 47201