

**TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Microsoft Teams Video Conference
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Minutes
August 6, 2021**

The Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission met this day at 9:00 AM CT for a meeting both in person and utilization of a Microsoft Teams forum. Notice being given seven (7) days prior on the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development website. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM CT by Chairman Carroll Van West. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Core	Dr. Warren Dockter
Ashley Howell	Patrick McIntyre
Chuck Sherrill	Carroll Van West
Cecile Wimberley	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rep. Clark Boyd	Sen. Todd Gardenhire
Sen. Rusty Crowe	Steve Gaines
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Rep. G.A. Hardaway

GUESTS PRESENT

Melanie Beauchamp, Department of Tourist Development, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Tourism & Outreach

Ashley Fuqua, Department of Tourist Development, Legislative Liaison & Acting Secretary for the Commission

Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator

A statement of necessity was filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State's Office per Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-108(a)(3). The Statement of Necessity was read into the record at the onset of the Teams meeting.

AGENDA

Welcome, West

Welcome and Call to Order.

Housekeeping, Fuqua

- Roll Call. 7 members were present, 6 members were absent at the time of the roll call.



- Statement of Necessity was read at the meeting and later submitted to the Secretary of State's office per statutory requirements. The statement was required as majority of members participated electronically. As members of the board reside across the entire state, it is impractical for all members to appear for a meeting in-person which became the necessity for the meeting to be held electronically.
- Approved the June Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Howell with second by Wimberley, all members present voted in favor, none opposed.
- Fuqua made a statement that should members call in or attend Teams meeting, she would recognize them and have time for public comment. Hearing or seeing none, the meeting proceeded.

New Business, West

- West, asked Wimberley to give her thoughts and impressions from the June 15, 2021, America 250 meeting.
- Discussion.
 - Wimberley provided an update as to the expectations of a partnership. Wimberley discussed that many states are like Tennessee and want to broaden timeframe of celebrations. America 250 Foundation is open to allowing states to make this their own. Partnership comes with a \$10,000 grant. Many states are in process of making decisions and getting started with their Commission. Tennessee one of the few states with an actual established commission so poised to be a pace-setter. Pennsylvania already has a website. Discussed the trademark element, branding, status as a national partner and promotion of such. There are some reporting requirements with acceptance of the grant. National commission is hoping to continue quarterly calls with the states. Virginia has reached out to Dr. West. Similar branding would help us out and assist with tourism aspects and may connect sister states in trails. The commission would have access to the 250 trademark but appears to not be restricted in creating its own Tennessee mark.
 - Fuqua had previously sent the group the America 250 documents. Beauchamp stated that the department has counsel for trademark creation.
 - Beauchamp and Wimberley discussed a timeframe and reporting template. Wants to understand expectations with grant to ensure the department has information posted in a timely fashion.
 - Howell asked who made application for the grant. Wanted to understand the mechanics due to state regulations. She reached out to counterparts in Pennsylvania.
 - Fuqua asked that the department be given some time to look at grant application to see what entity would be the best conduit.
 - West suggests the commission will probably want to design our own Tennessee logo. Discussed mechanics of grants. Core asked about Historical Society's role in Civil War 150th and its role as financial conduit due to more freedom in contracting. Wimberley mentioned 501(c)(3) status in grant so wants to see if grant funding must then be given to another 501(c)(3).
 - Core had questions about terminology and branding from the America 250 group.
 - West asked for a motion that the commission officially act to become a partner with America 250 and to pursue the agreement for trademark usage and grant application.



Motion by Wimberley, second by Dockter. A roll call vote was taken. All members present voted in favor, none opposed with a vote 7-0. Those present and voting aye were: Core, Dockter, Howell, McIntyre, Sherrill, West, and Wimberley.

- West spoke to the group about possible cities to hold public interest meetings. The group heard the cities and discussed where meetings should occur. The department will work with partners to establish locations. Meetings are likely to occur in late fall.
- West asked Wimberley to provide an update of the Jonesborough event on September 11, 2021. Wimberley--The Gathering celebrates the coming together of the patriots to fight. The Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution will debut its first 250th marker on Sycamore Shoals—boulder with a plaque.

Announcements, West

Dr. West will be speaking at the Colonial Dames conference and will mention the 250th celebration and history in general.

- There were no public comments.

Closing Remarks, West

West thanked everyone for attending. West adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am. Motion by Wimberley, second by McIntyre. All members joined in acclamation.

Approved:

11/5/2021
Date



 Ashley Fuqua, Acting Secretary
 Department of Tourist Development