

**TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
Microsoft Teams Video Conference
And In-Person
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Minutes
January 13, 2023**

The Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial 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 9:24 AM CT by Chairperson Ashley Howell. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

[REDACTED]

Jennifer Core

[REDACTED]

Dr. Warren Dockter

Commissioner Mark Ezell

[REDACTED]

Ashley Howell

Patrick McIntyre

[REDACTED]

Fred Underdown

Dr. Carroll Van West

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Clark Boyd

Senator Rusty Crowe

Senator Todd Gardenhire

Representative G.A. Hardaway

Jamie Ritter

Emily Robinson

GUESTS PRESENT

Alicia Widrig, Department of Tourist Development, General Counsel, Acting Attorney for the Commission

Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator, Acting Secretary for the Commission

Mary Katelyn Price, Department of Tourist Development, Legislative Liaison

Spencer Peck, Legislative Assistant to Senator Rusty Crowe

Diana Bramble, Superintendent, National Park Service Southern Campaign Sites

AGENDA

Welcome, Howell

Welcome and call to order for a meeting of the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.

Housekeeping, Grindley

- Roll Call. 7 members were present, 6 members were absent at the time of the roll call. A quorum was established.
- A statement of necessity will be filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State’s Office within two days per Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-108(a)(3). The Statement of Necessity was read into the record at the onset of the meeting, per statutory requirements for electronic meetings, and rendered as essential to continue the business of the Commission and adoption of the November minutes.
- Approved the November Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Underdown with second by Dockter. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Representative Clark Boyd		Ashley Howell	Yes
Jennifer Core	Yes	Patrick McIntyre	Yes
Senator Rusty Crowe		Jamie Ritter	
Dr. Warren Dockter	Yes	Emily Robinson	
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Yes	Fred Underdown	Yes
Senator Todd Gardenhire		Dr. Carroll Van West	Yes
Representative G.A. Hardaway			

Motion carries.

Announcements & Updates, Howell

1. Howell: Howell and West attended a virtual meeting of American Association of State & Local History on December 16. Meeting discussed national activities regarding the 250th commemoration.
West: AASLH has a grant-funded coordinator for 250th programs. Several states eager to accept AASLH guidance. Other states are in the network of America 250. There was discussion about America 250 having administrative issues at the top. Quite a few states have not yet formed a commission. States will Revolutionary War battlefield sites are moving forward rather quickly because they have the infrastructure. Tennessee needs to move beyond planning.
Howell: Many states are moving forward with planning and self-funded events or state funding in lieu of information on future federal funding.

Events, Howell

1. Howell asked Commissioners to be thinking about what events their organizations are already doing that could also be 250th events.
2. Bramble gave an overview of a few 250th event ideas NPS is considering. Her sites are finalizing their 2023 event calendar and she will share it with Howell.
3. Widrig: Commission is able to set up committees such as a Programs or Education Committee. Any committees would be subject to the same open records requirements as full Commission meetings.
Howell: We will think creatively about how we can coordinate activities within the committee structure.

Old Business, Howell

1. Howell encouraged Commissioners to use the Commission’s website and share the annual report with interested parties.

New Business, Ezell

1. Ezell plans to pursue conversations with legislators on Commission to see if they would be willing to allow a designee if a Commissioner could not attend a meeting. This would require a change in legislation.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Closing Remarks, Howell

Howell: In closing, wanted to echo a couple of points. In conversations around the state and America 250, the sentiment is “wow, I didn’t realize that was coming up and I’m glad our state has a commission thinking about these activities.” Challenge is upon us to continue the work of the commission and think about a statewide commemoration and how we can collaborate and build partnerships and continue to seek support on the national and state level. Encourage comments and feedback on how we can do that as a Commission. Motion to adjourn by West with second from Underdown. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Representative Clark Boyd		Ashley Howell	Yes
Jennifer Core	Yes	Patrick McIntyre	Yes
Senator Rusty Crowe		Jamie Ritter	
Dr. Warren Dockter	Yes	Emily Robinson	
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Yes	Fred Underdown	Yes
Senator Todd Gardenhire		Dr. Carroll Van West	Yes
Representative G.A. Hardaway			

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 am.

Approved:

4/21/2023
Date


Acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development