

**TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
COMMISSION**

**Microsoft Teams Video Conference
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Minutes
December 10, 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 9:01 AM CT by Chairman Carroll Van West. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT¹

Jennifer Core	Dr. Warren Dockter
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Steve Gaines
Ashley Howell	Patrick McIntyre
Chuck Sherrill	Carroll Van West
Cecile Wimberley	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rep. Clark Boyd
Sen. Rusty Crowe
Sen. Todd Gardenhire
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 & Assistant General Counsel, Acting Attorney & Secretary for the Commission

Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator

AGENDA

Welcome, West

Welcome and Call to Order.

¹ Ashley Howell joined the meeting at 9:05 am. Commissioner Mark Ezell joined the meeting at 9:09 am.

Housekeeping, Fuqua

- Roll Call. 7 members were present, 6 members were absent at the time of the roll call. 2 members joined the meeting after roll call as noted in the minutes. A quorum was established.
- A statement of necessity will be 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 meeting, per statutory requirements for electronic meetings, and rendered as essential to continue the business of the Commission and its discussion of the outcome of the community input meetings and upcoming reports and projects.
- Approved the November Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Ezell with second by Sherrill, all members voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

New Business, West

1. Public Input Meetings Discussion, West thanked the Commission members who helped sponsor the community input meetings.
 - a. Discussion, West, felt the meetings went well. From all the meetings attended, it was gathered that Tennesseans want a focus on Tennessee events that helped shape American democracy from the Revolution to present. People also like the idea of a Tennessee 250th Trail with interpretive markers. Civil Wars trail appears to be a good model. Some meetings emphasized this was a way to meet legislative mandate to include all 95 counties. It was also expressed that educational materials be present: handouts, traveling trunks, educator workshops, and online workshops for cemetery preservation and genealogy. Lots of discussion about signature events like TDTD worked with the Commission to present during Civil War Sesquicentennial. Asked for more detail out of Memphis meeting for civics idea from Judge Norris.

All meetings emphasized the importance of a website and social media presence. Meetings called for an active online campaign to promote events. Wish for one place to go to for information. Expect a website in 2022. International focus and infrastructural improvements were also brought to our attention at the meetings. Need for adequate staffing (Dr. West discussed how legislature provided appropriations and funding rather than dedicated staff), comprehensive database for Revolutionary cemeteries, public funding through grant process for infrastructural needs specific, to counties and regions, were at the top of list for needs and wishes for the celebration. Many counties made specific requests for projects in their area. The creation of a 250th Passport to help get people out and about to explore areas. Funding for valuable community objects—i.e. Liberty Bell restoration in Memphis.

Dockter, echoed sentiments from Dr. West. Said funds will be necessary for preservation and structural upkeep and repairs. Staff was also important to that

region. Digitization is necessary for Revolutionary documents. He also mentioned the archaeological work at Fort Armistead with Cherokee tribe.

Wimberley, support for Upper East Tennessee locations that have Revolutionary War sites, especially, an area adjacent to Roane Mountain site. A trail is important to Upper East Tennessee, including new locations and the grave site of Nancy Ward outside of Chattanooga.

McIntyre, groups from Fayetteville and Lawrence County attended the Nashville meeting along with other groups. Impressed by quality of presentations. Dr. West covered meetings well.

Core, online meeting went well. Concern that if the county had formed after the date they might be left out of celebration. Dr. West alleviated those concerns. The online meeting stressed the need for educational materials.

West, great turnout from DAR/SAR and tourism groups. He will prepare a report for Commissioner Ezell regarding key points of those public meetings. Spring 2022 meetings should focus on recommendations from public to form a more solid plan for the 2026th celebration and events. Likewise the 2022 meetings will focus on the Commission's priorities with continued discussion and decisions on staffing levels and a grant program.

Beauchamp, asked questions regarding staffing. Is there a concern with the state providing staffing? Dr. West clarified that TDTD would be fine working on the project.

Announcements, West

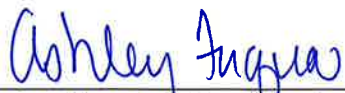
There were no public comments.

Closing Remarks, West

West thanked everyone for attending and provided that an update will be sent the following week regarding the report due to the General Assembly and Governor. West, Dismiss as business has been concluded. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 am.

Approved:

4/8/2022
Date



Ashley Fuqua, Acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development

