

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

**Microsoft Teams Video Conference  
And In-Person  
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Minutes  
November 4, 2022**

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 9:02 AM CT by Chairman Carroll Van West. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

**MEMBERS PRESENT<sup>1</sup>**

Jennifer Core	Dr. Warren Dockter
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Ashley Howell
Patrick McIntyre	Jamie Ritter
Emily Robinson	Dr. Carroll Van West
Fred Underdown <sup>2</sup>	

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rep. Clark Boyd  
Sen. Rusty Crowe  
Sen. Todd Gardenhire  
Rep. G.A. Hardaway

**GUESTS PRESENT**

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

Christina Treglia, Department of Environment and Conservation, Director of Brand Promise

**AGENDA**

**Welcome**, West

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<sup>1</sup> All Commission members and guests participated in the meeting virtually.  
<sup>2</sup> Fred Underdown joined the meeting after attendance was taken. He joined at 9:16am.

Welcome and Call to Order.

**Housekeeping**, Fuqua

- Roll Call. 8 members were present, 5 members were absent at the time of the roll call. A quorum was established. Fred Underdown later joined the meeting. This is notated in the footnotes.
- 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 adoption of the August minutes.
- Approved the September Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Dockter with second by Ritter, all members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

**Old Business**, West

1. Report from Memphis Meeting: DAR and SAR Chapters, West provided an update. 50-60 members present. West reported on Commission meetings to date. Strong support and endorsement for Commission's plan, especially education initiative, grant projects, and trail idea. West heard no new ideas. Key constituencies involved. All looking for legislative support.
2. TN 250th Website Update, Grindley, no updates.
3. America 250 Foundation Agreement Update, Fuqua provided an update to the Commission regarding the contract. Several changes in the organization so state templates need to be resent to Emily Sexton if the state wishes to contract for the grant dollars.

**New Business**, West

1. Election of the Commission Chair, West let members know he was term limited out and a new chair would need to be selected for 2023-2024 years. West served as chair from December 2020-2022.
  - a. Discussion, Warren Dockter made the nomination of Ashley Howell to serve as Chair. Jamie Ritter made the second. Ashley Howell praised Dr. West's leadership of the Commission and everything he did to lead the discussions and formulate a plan. Commissioner Mark Ezell also supported the idea that Dr. West serve as Chairman Emeritus.
  - b. Vote, Fuqua called the roll where individuals voted the following:
    - i. West-yes
    - ii. Dockter-yes
    - iii. Ezell-yes
    - iv. Robinson-yes
    - v. Core-yes
    - vi. Ritter-yes

vii. McIntyre-yes

viii. Howell-recused herself as she was the nomination.

7 in favor, motion carries. Ashley Howell selected as new chair.

2. America 250 Southern Meeting, West provided an update regarding his meeting. The meeting was comprised of various states and Drew Gruber with Civil War Trails. Update on what other southern states are doing. Kentucky wants to join planning group. If Tennessee wishes to have trails, the Commission needs to look a year out. The Commission will need to begin asking for legislative appropriations should they wish to pursue a trail. South Carolina and Virginia have the largest scale of history relative to the Commission's purpose. Head of the Overmountain Victory, Diana Bramble, called Dr. West to discuss an update of Tennessee's Commission activities. Ms. Bramble was happy about seeing Shelter Rock included on Tennessee's list. He will speak with her by phone next week.
3. Report on DAR, Robinson updated the group about the activities. She serves from 2022-2025 for the administration of the DAR.
  - a. Book sales, Robinson said the DAR will be creating a book featuring those who gained independence from Great Britain or those living in the boundaries of Tennessee before, during, or after the American Revolution. The DAR is researching individuals for the book—those underrepresented, women, African Americans, Native Americans. Everyone will have an entire page. Some individuals included will be famous Tennesseans, others will be little known individuals. Available beginning in April 2024. Book sales will occur twice a year.
  - b. Nancy Ward Gravesite marker ceremony-will occur within the next year. This follows Sycamore Shoals marker from earlier this year.
  - c. Davidson County Courthouse marker, Robinson will need assistance with marker. The DAR hopes to re-dedicate marker in next 3 years. Marker is overgrown and needs new landscaping. DAR wants to highlight marker for America 250. Will work with Davidson County. Has a connection in state government who will try to assist.
    - i. Patrick McIntyre said as state historic preservation officer he would love to know more about monument and would like to assist.
    - ii. West asked for report to send to Commission.
4. December Meeting, West suggested no meeting in December. West will meet with Howell to discuss upcoming Commission schedule and business for 2023. Howell will work with TDTD staff to set up new meeting.

**Announcements**, West

There was no additional new business nor old business. There were no public comments.

**Closing Remarks**, West

West, Dismiss as business has been concluded. Dockter provided the motion, second by Howell.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

Approved:

1/17/2023  
Date

*Andi Brindley*  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Tourist Development