

Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquicentennial
Approved Meeting minutes – Quarterly meeting National
Veterans Museum and Memorial – Columbus, OH
Thursday, March 9, 2023

Commission members present:

- Michael B. Coleman (co-chair) IceMiller
- Doug Preisse (co-chair), Van Meter-Ashbrook
- State Sen. Hearcel Craig
- Christy Davis, Ohio Local History Alliance-immediate past president, Museum of Art-curator of exhibitions
- Kathryn Dean-Dielman, Lorain County Historical Society-board president
- Kelly Falcone Hall, Western Reserve Historical Society-executive director
- John Fleming, Ph.D., museum professional
- Thomas Hankins, Sons of the American Revolution/Committee to Rebuild Fort Laurens
- State Representative Adam Holmes
- Vincent Keeran, Ohio Senate Clerk
- Sharon Kennedy, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice
- Glenn Miller, County Commissioners' Assn. of Ohio board president
- State Rep. Joe Miller
- Charley Moses, Ohio History Connection-board president
- Kim Murnieks, Office of Budget and Management-director
- Paul Oyaski, fmr mayor of Euclid/fmr Cuyahoga County Development Department director
- Sharetta Smith, mayor of Lima
- Hon. Ted Strickland, former Governor/former member of Congress
- Samantha Turner, Youngstown City Council
- Megan Wood, (secretary, ex-officio), Ohio History Connection-executive director

Absent: Steve Hambley, Medina County Commissioner; Nancy Hollister, former Governor/Lt. Governor; Melinda Huntley, Ohio Travel Association-executive director; Megan Kvamme, Muskingum County entrepreneur; State Sen. George Lang; Adam Levine, Toledo Museum of Art-director; Elizabeth Pierce, Cincinnati Museum Center-executive director; Ginger Warner, Ohio Arts Council-board chair; Mackensie Wittmer, National Aviation Heritage Area-executive director

Staff: Todd Kleismit, executive director
Jodie Engle, managing director
Chris Hurtubise, communications director
C. Patrick Denier, assistant attorney general

Guests: Charles Bluestone, Bluestone Law Group; Charisse Burgess, IceMiller; Donna Collins, Executive Director, Ohio Arts Council (on behalf of AM 250-OH Commissioner, Ginger Warner); Steve George, Advisor, Ohio History Connection; Paul LaRue, Board President, State Board of Education; Susan Leininger, State Regent, Ohio Society-Daughters of the American Revolution; Ricky Madrid, Assistant, Van Meter-Ashbrook; Chris Nehring, State Vice Regent, Ohio Society-Daughters of the American Revolution; Riley Stevens, Bluestone Law Group; Cheryl Subler, Executive Director, County Commissioners' Association of Ohio; Betty Weibel, Trustee, Ohio History Connection

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CALL TO ORDER: Commission Co-Chair Michael B. Coleman called the Commission meeting to order at 10:37 am.

The welcome was given by representatives, Colonel William Butler and General Ferriter, with the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, who provided an overview of the history of the site.

Co-Chair Coleman welcomed three America 250-Ohio Commission members who recently joined the commission: Lima Mayor Sharetta Smith; Glenn Miller, Henry County Commissioner and President of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio; Christy Davis, Immediate Past President of the Ohio History Alliance and Curator of Exhibitions at the Canton Museum of Art.

Commission Secretary Megan Wood took the roll: There were (19) commissioners, (1) ex-officio commissioners, (3) AM 250-OH Commission staff, (1) Attorney General's Office staff, (11) guests were present, (9) commissioners were absent. Co-chair Coleman asked if there were any corrections or discussions of the minutes from the December 8, 2022 Commission meeting that were distributed. There were none.

MOTION: Samantha Young made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 8, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Senator Hearcel Craig. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Todd Kleismit gave his executive director's report. Highlights included:

- Personnel Update
 - Chris Hurtubise, communications director
 - Next hire is expected to be the Executive Assistant role
- Since we last met
 - America 250-Ohio Commission's new Logo, chosen during the December commission meeting, has been launched into several branded elements.
 - A slightly updated "Recommendations to the People of Ohio" report was released in January to represent the updates made to some of the commissioners' roles in the new calendar year.
 - The Commission's presence at the Statehood Day, on March 2 was a positive and productive experience. Highlights included:
 - Reveal of the statewide billboard campaign
 - Public revealing of the Commission's logo and billboard image by Governor DeWine
 - AM 250-OH Commission's wood-carved Emblem, created by local artist, Andrew Lundberg, was featured in multiple photos by and with attendees
- Finance Updates
 - The FY23 Budget to Actual report showed the current amount available. (see report)
 - The FY24 Commission budget will be shared and voted on during the June 16th meeting.
- Executive Director Kleismit gave special thanks to staff member, Jodie Engle, for her dedication to the commission and preparation for the Commission meeting.
- Charles Bluestone, who served on the AM 250-OH Commission's Museums, Arts Organizations and Cultural Institutions Committee last fall, shared information about a new book project by photographer

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Thomas Schiff. The theme of the book will focus on civic architecture from across the nation as well as historically significant buildings in Ohio.

Commission’s Talking Points

- Chris Hurtubise presented a draft of the AM 250-OH Commission’s talking points for review and consideration. Discussion ensued.
- Requests for additional information was made on topics such as:
 - Advice to communities on how to get started
 - Upcoming Funding opportunities from AM 250-OH Commission
 - Responding to why Ohio should commemorate when we weren’t a state until 1803
- Chris documented what was said and requested and will follow up with the commission members in the near future.

America 250-Ohio Headquarters

- Todd publicly thanked OBM Director Kim Murnieks for allowing the America 250-Ohio commission staff to set up temporary offices at the Rhodes Tower on the 35th floor.
- Co-Chair Prieis spoke about the exploration of spaces in the downtown area due to the growth of the staff and the need to increase accessibility for guests, partners, staff, etc.
- An overview of the chosen space in the Huntington Center with the property management company, Hines, was shared. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Kathy Dean-Dielman made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-01 which provides the Executive Director the authority to move forward on securing the space and going into a lease agreement with Hines. It was seconded by Director Kim Murnieks. Motion passed. Chief Justice Kennedy abstained.

State Budget Update

- Co-Chair Prieis provided a brief overview of the budget process for FY24/25.
 - FY23-allocated \$500,000 to get us up and running
 - Last fall, the Commission requested \$5.8 million for FY24 and \$8.1 million for FY25
 - Currently waiting on the House Finance Committee to share their version of the budget. And then we’ll hear from the Senate in late May/early June. And the budget will be signed into law by Governor DeWine by the end of June.
- Co-Chair Prieis asked if any legislators in the room had relevant updates to share with the commissioners. They did not.
- Legislators on the Commission shared their on-going dedication and support towards the Commission’s plans and funding request. Ohio House members Adam Holmes and Joe Miller were thanked for their work on House Concurrent Resolution 5 that expresses support for the work of the AM 250-OH Commission.

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Working Group Spotlights

- Jodie reviewed the different types of groups involved in the AM 250-OH Commission such as: Commissioners, Staff, Committees and Working Groups.
- The Commission heard from three working group leads:
 - A Signature Event: Ohio goes to the Movies: A statewide festival of Ohio-made film presented by Working Group Team Lead Steve George.
 - A Legacy Project: Recognizing Revolutionary War Graves by Team Lead Tom Hankins.
 - An Educational Opportunity for our K-12 classroom students: Supplemental School Materials by our new Ohio Dept of Education Board Chair Paul LaRue.

Discussion and Other Business

- Co-Chair Coleman introduced a short video from AM 250-OH Commissioner Elizabeth Pierce who was not able to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement. The U.S. Postal Service released (5) new railroad station stamps that directly relate to her community and the Art Deco train station that is now at the Cincinnati Museum Center.
- Co-Chair Coleman then introduced a timelapse video from Andrew Lundberg's studio that shows some of the process that was used while they created our AM 250-OH Commission Emblem.
- The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 16 at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce.

MOTION: Ms. Kathy Dean-Dielman moved to adjourn. Ms. Sharetta Smith seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jodie Engle on behalf of Commission Secretary, Megan Wood.