

Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial

Meeting minutes – Quarterly meeting

Ohio History Center | Columbus, OH

Friday, September 16, 2022

Commission members present:

- Doug Preisse (co-chair), Van Meter-Ashbrook-principle
- State Sen. Hearcel Craig
- Kathryn Dean-Dielman, Lorain County Historical Society-board president
- Kelly Falcone Hall, Western Reserve Historical Society-executive director
- Dr. John Fleming, museum professional
- Nancy Hollister, former Governor/Lt. Governor
- State Representative Adam Holmes
- Melinda Huntley, Ohio Travel Association-executive director
- Vincent Keeran, Ohio Senate Clerk
- Matt MacLaren, Tourism Ohio-director
- State Rep. Joe Miller
- Kim Murnieks, Office of Budget and Management-director
- Paul Oyaski, fmr mayor of Euclid/fmr Cuyahoga County Development Department director
- Hon. Ted Strickland, former Governor/former member of Congress
- Mackensie Wittmer, National Aviation Heritage Area-executive director

Absent: Michael B. Coleman (co-chair) IceMiller; Tom Hankins, Sons of the American Revolution/Committee to Rebuild Fort Laurens; Sen. George Lang; Adam Levine, Toledo Museum of Art-director; Montgomery County Com. Debbie Lieberman, County Comm.s' Association of Ohio-president; Charley Moses, Ohio History Connection-board president; Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor; Elizabeth Pierce, Cincinnati Museum Center-executive director; Ginger Warner, Ohio Arts Council-board chair; Wendy Zucal, Ohio Local History Alliance-immediate past president/Dennison Railway Depot Station-executive director; Megan Wood, (secretary, ex-officio), Ohio History Connection-executive director

Staff: Todd Kleismit, executive director
Jodie Engle, project coordinator
C. Patrick Denier, assistant attorney general

Guests: Dr. Doris Rhea Coy, Daughters of the American Revolution: East Central Ohio chapter-250 America Ohio chair; Ann Federer, Daughters of the American Revolution: East Central Ohio chapter-member; Susan Leininger, Daughters of the American Revolution: State Chapter-president; David Browning, Browning Design-graphic designer; Ricky Madrid, Van Meter-Ashbrook-Associate; Jerry Dannemiller, Ohio History Connection-chief marketing officer, Steve George, Ohio History Connection-senior advisor to the executive director, Neil Thompson, Ohio History Connection-media & pr manager, and Sara Stiffler, Ohio Supreme Court-manager of civic education (on behalf of Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Conner)

CALL TO ORDER: Commission Co-Chair Doug Preisse called the Commission meeting to order at 11:15 am and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Todd Kleismit took the roll call: There were (15) commissioners, (3) staff, (9) guests were present. (11) commissioners were absent.

Co-chair Preisse asked if there were any corrections or discussions of the minutes from the June 10, 2022 Commission meeting that were distributed. Kathryn Dean-Dielman had one change which was to update her title to board president in the list of those in attendance.

MOTION: Vincent Keeran made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 10, 2022 meeting with one update: correcting Kathryn Dean-Dielman's title. Seconded by Kathryn Dean-Dielman. The motion passed.

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

- The Commission's approved budget for FY23 is \$500,000. Payments from state appropriations are paid quarterly to the Commission's fiscal agent, Ohio History Connection (OHC), in the amount of \$125,000. Expenses for FY23 currently total \$25,187. (July & August only) 3) Budget-The next state operating biennial budget request will be submitted in mid-October.
- Mr. Kleismit introduced new staff member, Jodie Engle, who has been a part of the team since July 2022 as the program coordinator. He gave additional praise and appreciation to her hard work.
- Mr. Kleismit read out loud the executive director's letter from the soon to be released America 250-Ohio commission report which includes accomplishments from the past quarter.
- Upcoming Projects include:
 - 1) America 250-Ohio commission's report- 1,000 copies will be ordered and distributed in the next few days and will be distributed in-person, mailed, uploaded to the website and/or social media, etc. An electronic version will be uploaded to the website.
 - 2) Promoting the report-Mr. Kleismit offered to speak at upcoming events, meetings, etc. about the America 250-Ohio Commission. He asked that Commissioners consider contacting him directly with viable opportunities and their questions.
 - 3) Human Resources-The staff is expected to expand by early 2023. Mr. Kleismit invited Commissioners to be a thought-partner for internal organizational design and interviewing teams. He asked that those who are interested to contact him by September 30, 2022.

Patrick Denier introduced himself and shared the relevant job duties as the representative from the Attorney General's Office for the America 250-Ohio commission. He asked that all questions go through Executive Director Todd Kleismit who will act as a liaison to Mr. Denier.

Ohio Revised Code: 121.22-Open Meeting Act which pertains to both Commissioner and Committee Meetings. Mr. Denier confirmed that at this time commissioners may only attend a Commission Meeting in-person and if they attend virtually their participation of any kind would not count in the Commission's business nor meeting minutes. (If one does attend virtually, you are considered absent and may not speak about Commission matters) Mr. Denier stressed the importance of not discussing the business of the Commission outside of public meetings, which includes informal interactions in-person, over email, or on a phone call.

Mr. Kleismit thanked everyone for their committee work over the last few months that supported the development of the ideas written into the America 250-Ohio commission report. He then presented a draft of the report and provided an overview of each section which was met with appreciation, pride, and positive responses. One commissioner suggested the Ohio Open Doors program as a possible model to other states. Discussion ensued and highlights included:

- Questions to gain more clarity of ideas in the America 250-Ohio commission report; or where and how committee members who contributed to the report were recognized; and some were curious to know how the staff will set up and manage a statewide granting process for local communities.
- Suggestions were provided on a range of topics such as possible partners and stakeholders to pursue; while advice was given in how to set-up each of the initiatives and evaluate internal and external capacities. Ms. Nancy Hollister, expressed excitement about the amazing events, and opportunities to partner and create new events that are going to make for a “spectacular celebration.” She then asked about the planning of resources, and suggested that a budget could accompany the report so legislators would have more information to help make decisions.
- Mr. Stephen George quoted the Ohio Revised Code when referring to the suggestion that a budget accompany the report which said, “May include recommendations for the following...” It was his opinion that a budget was not a necessary item to include with the report.
- Anecdotes and unknown facts seemed to pop up in many of the comments which were meant to enrich current initiatives or inspire new topics to research.
- Those in the room who had worked on other large scale events in the past spoke about the need for the commission to start planning and implementing ideas right away... in order to build momentum to the July 4, 2026 date and beyond.

Mr. Kleismit passed around a few copies of a “mock-up” version of the 32-page report that will go to print next week and will be delivered to the Governor’s Office and General Assembly by September 30, 2022.

MOTION: Mr. Keeran moved to accept the resolution 2022.04 regarding the process for finishing the editing process for the report. Ms. Hollister seconded. Following some discussion, questions and updates, the motion passed.

MOTION: Ms. Dean-Dielman moved to adjourn. Mr. Strickland seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

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