

Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial
Meeting minutes – Quarterly meeting for approval
Dennison Railroad Depot – Dennison, OH *Thursday,*
December 8, 2022

Commission members present:

- Doug Priebe (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
- Tom Hankins, Sons of the American Revolution/Committee to Rebuild Fort Laurens
- Nancy Hollister, former Governor/Lt. Governor
- State Rep. Adam Holmes
- Melinda Huntley, Ohio Travel Association-executive director
- Vincent Keeran, Ohio Senate Clerk
- Megan Kvamme, Muskingum County entrepreneur
- Matt MacLaren, Tourism Ohio-director
- 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
- Hon. Ted Strickland, former Governor/former member of Congress
- Samantha Turner, Youngstown City Council
- Mackensie Wittmer, National Aviation Heritage Area-executive director
- 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

Absent: Michael B. Coleman (co-chair) IceMiller; Sen. George Lang; Adam Levine, Toledo Museum of Art-director; Montgomery County Com. Debbie Lieberman, County Com.'s Association of Ohio-president; Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor; Elizabeth Pierce, Cincinnati Museum Center-executive director; Sharetta Smith, mayor of Lima; Ginger Warner, Ohio Arts Council-board chair; Dr. Steve Hambley, Media County Commissioner.

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

Guests: Kevin Boehner, Ohio History Connection- Director of Government Relations; Donna Collins-Executive Director, Ohio Arts Council (on behalf of AM 250-OH Commissioner, Ginger Warner); Christy Davis, Ohio Local

History Alliance-Board President; Steve George, Ohio History Connection-senior advisor to the executive director; Dee Grossman, Tuscarawas Tourism; State Senator Jay Hottinger; Tuscarawas County Commissioner Al Landis (and State Senator-Elect); Pete Lupiba, Office of Budget and Management- Deputy Director and Chief of Communications; Darryl Markijohn, Zoar Village; Chris Nehring, Ohio Society of Daughters of the American Revolution; Tony Rucci, Interim Executive Director of America250 Foundation, Teri Stein-Tuscarawas County Bargain Hunter newspaper.

CALL TO ORDER: Commission Co-Chair Doug Puisse called the Commission meeting to order at 11:16 am and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Megan Wood took the roll call: There were (21) commissioners, (1) ex-officio commissioner, (3) staff, (12) guests were present. (9) commissioners were absent.

Co-chair Puisse asked if there were any corrections or discussions of the minutes from the September 16, 2022 Commission meeting that were distributed. There were none.

MOTION: Paul Oyaski made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Dr. John Fleming. The motion passed.

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

- AM 250-OH Recommendations Report
 - Since our last meeting, the report was sent out to the Governor's Office, legislators, commissioners, committee members, and other stakeholders. Most of the printed copies from the first order have been distributed. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
 - A second batch of 1,000 reports will be ordered from the printer. The second version of the report contains a few updates: 1) The AM 250-OH approved logo is now on the cover. 2) The Commissioner list has been updated.
 - There are over 40 ideas listed in the report. The team has been putting together an approach to strategizing, prioritizing and organizing ideas.

- Staffing Update
 - Recently our team has been working with Ohio History Connection's Human Resources department to list two new positions: Executive Assistant and Communications Director. We plan to interview candidates after the holidays and hope the new staff will be at the Statehood Day in March.
 - The next staff position to add will likely be a programs/creative director.

- AM 250-OH Commission Headquarters
 - The AM 250-OH commission staff are currently working out of the Rhodes Tower on the 35th floor in the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). Special thanks was extended to OBM and Director Kimberly Murnieks for providing the Commission with this office space.
 - As the team grows additional space will be required. We are exploring other options for the long-term location of the team's headquarters. The hope is to remain downtown and move by spring of 2023.

- Commission financials

Mr. Kleismit shared a one-page document with the Commission showing the Commission's expenses through the end of October in the amount of \$71,562. He emphasized that this represents just four months (1/3) of the fiscal year. He said that most of the expenditures would come later in the fiscal year.

- The fiscal years 2024-25 operating budget request was submitted to OBM in October.
 - We requested \$5,844,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 and \$8,150,000 for FY 2025.
 - The largest chunks in our request are for a new grants program to help fund some of the initiatives described in our report. About \$3 million in the first year and \$5 million in the second year are allocated for a grants program.
 - Hiring a full staff of 12-16 people over the next two years: \$1.5 - \$1.6 M annually.
 - We should see the Governor's introduced version of the next state budget in late January or early February.

- Upcoming Deadlines and Events

- 2022 AM 250-OH Commission Annual Report due by the end of the year
- Ohio Statehood Day event on Thursday, March 2, 2023
- AM 250-OH Commission meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023
- DAR speaking engagement on Friday, March 24, 2023

An update on the National Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial called America250, was presented by Interim America250 Foundation CEO, Tony Rucci. Mr. Rucci provided an overview of the commission starting from its creation in 2016, followed by the extensive gathering of information over a three year period which informed its themes: *Educate, Engage and Unite* and current focus: *to unite America and engage youth*.

Partnerships are the key to how the commission's vision is realized. There are over 150 partnership agreements with countries across the world. As of now, 31 states have created a statewide effort (commission or committee) which is more than there were at this time during the planning of America's Bicentennial. Regional groups have begun to network and discuss potential collaborative efforts. Signature events, such as Sail 250 and Tall Ships America will require strong collaboration amongst many national partners. Many other ideas are being explored with a variety of industries such as the American Association for State and Local History, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, VFWs, the American Legion, 4-H, Tribal advisors, and the National Football League.

In the coming year, America250 staff will increase their outreach efforts to the states as 2024 is the launch of many strategic initiatives. The next step is to work with each state commission to coordinate a communication plan to invite all mayors and county commissioners to actively engage in the upcoming anniversary. Mr. Rucci concluded by answering questions from the commissioners and sharing his contact information for future use.

Mr. Kleismit and Ms. Engle shared a slide that provided an example of the way the commission may view the progress of planned initiatives. The specific list of initiatives is currently being discussed and have not been finalized.

Mr. Kleismit provided an overview of the America 250-OH commission logo design process. An invitation to participate went out to seven diverse designers in the state and five designers submitted artwork. The review process was anonymous so that the identities of the designers would not possibly influence the selection

process. A small group including the commission co-chairs and staff narrowed down the 20+ submissions to three. Those three were shared on the screen. Discussion ensued and eventually it was clear that option B was the most favorable design.

MOTION: Melinda Huntley made a motion to accept option B with revisions. Seconded by Nancy Hollister. Motion passed. Mr. Kleismit then revealed that the logo designer selected was David Browning (Browning Design).

The 2023 America 250-OH Commission meeting schedule was discussed. The consensus is to have meetings on Thursdays or Fridays and arrange the schedule so that two meetings happen in Columbus and two will occur outside of Central Ohio.

In closing, Mr. Kleismit thanked three commissioners whose term will conclude at the end of the calendar year. He presented a proclamation to Wendy Zucal, the meeting host and executive director of the Dennison Railroad Depot. Her role as the Immediate Past-President of the Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) will be passed onto Christy Davis who was also present at the meeting and will assume the Commission post for the OLHA in January 2023. Two other commissioners who were not able to attend the meeting were also thanked and will be sent proclamations in the mail. They are Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman the president of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio and Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor.

MOTION: Ms. Huntley moved to adjourn. Charley Moses seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.

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