

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

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

**Minutes  
April 8, 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 9:05 AM CT by Chairman Carroll Van West. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennifer Core  
Fred Underdown  
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

Rob Regg, Department of Tourist Development, Director of Marketing

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

## AGENDA

### Welcome, West

Welcome and Call to Order.

### Housekeeping, Fuqua

- Roll Call. 7 members were present, 6 members were absent at the time of the roll call. 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 adoption of the December minutes.
- Approved the December 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 Howell, all members voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

### New Business, West

1. Update on Tennessee Agreement/Partnership with America 250 Agreement
  - a. Discussion, Fuqua, Talked to CPO-state's contracting authority, money must route through another entity. Discussions in the past agreed that Jennifer Core, East TN Historical Society would hold the money for benefit of Commission. Will relook into Agreement and decide what person needs to sign.
2. Use of America 250 Logo, Beauchamp and Fuqua, once agreement is signed the logo may be used.
3. Report on America 250 Southern Campaigns Regional Meeting, West gave an update. Hosted by America 250 in January with the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia participating. South Carolina interested in connecting with Tennessee on trail system, as well as North Carolina due to some of revolutionary men. Virginia is not so receptive to working with Tennessee. Tennessee will work with Drew Gerber as they did for the Civil War celebrations. Tennessee has a good handle on projects it wants to include.
4. Report from DAR/SAR: Spring 2022.
  - a. Discussion, Wimberley, provided an update of activities. DAR is very excited that they have partnered with America 250. Dr. West will speak at DAR breakfast. Norris and Underdown will be attending the conference following the breakfast. Administration change in July 2022-Emily Robinson will assume Wimberley's seat and will continue efforts for the 250. National Society are implementing commemorative medals and certificates that will be given to individuals and groups working to promote America 250.

Dockter, TN presentation on America 250 sponsored by Dr. Dockter as part of public programming. He is very excited to host. Dockter-asked McIntyre for a phone call to discuss Fort Armistead to America 250.

West, Fort Armistead in Monroe County is directly connected to the Trail of Tears story and is being considered for a National Historic Landmark designation.

5. Sponsorships.

- a. Discussion, West, will talk to group on Monday and DAR conference attendees about the Watauga Lease. Should there be a press release about event and recognizes the anniversary which could raise visibility of the Commission.

Beauchamp, is this to get press or acknowledge Commission and raise awareness. Include the press release on the industry site for TDTD.

Sherrill, wonder if Commission could work with Library and Archives to see what may be in archives to get more awareness and help promote the Watauga Lease.

West, will send around text to Commission members to approve the press release after working with State Library and Archives on language.

Howell, how do we direct traffic for more information once we publish press release. State Museum is happy to push out release on social media and website. Had a specific website for Women's Suffrage and thinks a landing page for the Commission is appropriate.

6. TN 250th Website

- a. Discussion, Beauchamp, will work to develop a specific site very much like the department created for the Civil War celebration. Can link on gov site so citizens will see information.

Regg, will need to secure a specific URL for Tennessee's 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations and events. TN250.com and Tennessee250.com are both available.

Ezell, any reason we should not go ahead and secure URLs.

West, called for a motion—TDTD will designate the website domain for the Commission, Ezell—motion, Howell and Wimberley seconded the motion. All Commission members present voted in the affirmative. Plenty of time to develop a website this year and next year since Tennessee does not have a site until 1775 and will celebrate in 2025.

Beauchamp, can TDTD staff go ahead and begin working on content for website or would Commission like to approve. Fuqua, let Commission know they can vote now to allow TDTD to begin work on website content or if the information remains private, Commission could vote next month.

West, motion that TDTD may draft content for website with review and approval by Commission members. Second by Wimberley.

**Announcements**, West

Introduced Christina from State Parks and asked her to say a few words.

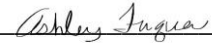
There were no public comments.

**Closing Remarks**, West

West, Dismiss as business has been concluded. Howell provided the motion, second by Wimberley. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

Approved:

8/5/22  
Date

  
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Ashley Fuqua, Acting Secretary  
Department of Tourist Development