

**TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL  
COMMISSION  
Microsoft Teams Video Conference  
And In-Person  
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Minutes  
August 5, 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 9:12 AM CT by Chairman Carroll Van West. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Core <sup>1</sup>	Dr. Warren Dockter
Commissioner Mark Ezell *	Ashley Howell
Patrick McIntyre	Jamie Ritter <sup>2</sup>
Dr. Carroll Van West *	Fred Underdown

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Core was not present at roll call but later joined the meeting at 9:18am.

<sup>2</sup> Jamie Ritter assumes the member position of Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian & Archivist, who recently retired from the Secretary of State's office. This position is determined by the position holder and is clarified in the Public Chapter which establishes the Commission.

Members denoted with an asterisk (\*) appeared in person.

Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator

Jami Awalt, Secretary of State's Office, Assistant State Archivist

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. Jennifer Core later joined the meeting so 8 members were present.
- 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 April minutes.
- Approved the April 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 Ezell, all members voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.<sup>3</sup>

### **New Business**, West

1. Reports on April 250th events in Knoxville and Franklin, Dockter provided an update. Well attended in Knoxville-around 50-60 individuals present. Big interest from SAR and DAR with Commission's plans for events in East Tennessee. Historic homes would like to play a role as well. West provided an update of the Franklin event. Again SAR/DAR is very supportive of plans and wants to continue working with Commission on events. Big takeaway is level of involvement from all chapters of DAR across the state. Underdown did mention that while DAR/SAR chapters are knowledgeable about the 250<sup>th</sup> and celebrations, general public is still unaware. Many historical societies are also unaware so a need to be stronger in messaging and publicity.
2. September Event-Overmountain Men at Sycamore Shoals, Dockter is speaking at event along with West. West asked Howell to please attend on behalf of State Museum. Dockter would also like to use Commission's website to advertise for these types of events. Underdown states it is a national type of event.

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<sup>3</sup> Jennifer Core did not vote on the minutes as she had not yet joined the meeting.

- a. Discussion, Treglia, would you like TDEC to post this on a banner on website to advertise for the event. Any type of specific branding we should be incorporating.
3. TN 250th Website
  - a. Discussion, Beauchamp, discussed the website and what appears on Commission's website to date. While not public facing yet, the website will include bios, headshots, mission statement of the Commission, information on the Commission's formation and establishment, and then links for any events, reports, or other notable information that the Commission would like to share. The press release for the Watauga Association Lease is not yet uploaded.

Grindley, any information the Commission wishes to share and post on the website needs to be sent to me.

West, wishes to include all reports sent to the General Assembly on the website for transparency.

Dockter, wishes to post a timeline of event once available as well as a map of Tennessee as to help ensure understanding of geography and events.

West, called for a motion—TDTD will continue with the website design.

Howell, motion. Underdown seconded the motion. All Commission members present voted in the affirmative.

4. Introduction of Jamie Ritter, State Librarian & Archivist, West introduced Ritter to the group. Ritter provided a history of himself and his career.
5. Memphis Event-October 8, 2022. West provided an update to the Commission regarding an event where he was asked to speak. A combined effort of DAR/SAR regarding a major kickoff announcement for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. West will provide more details as they become available. Underdown said there will be a similar event in East Tennessee. Will provide information to Andi to post on the website.
6. Update on America 250 Grant.
  - a. Discussion, Fuqua, Talked to CPO-state's contracting authority and the department's general counsel regarding the ability to sign the America 250 grant contract. A consensus that money most now be routed through the department since the Commission is administratively attached to us and need to alter the grant contract to comply with state standards. Ashley Fuqua will contact America 250 Foundation and see if the entity would be willing to sign a state issued contract.
7. State Parks Initiative. Treglia was asked to bring some comments from State Parks to the group. Her question involved the issue of telling the story of indigenous peoples and slaves during this celebration.

Announcements, West

Commissioner Mark Ezell said he will work with the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis to help publicize the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration as well as work with them to make sure we tell Tennessee's story from their perspective.

Ashley Howell asked that we share more information on the website so we can share the Commission's story with the Governor's office and individuals. Melanie Beauchamp will share information on the website when it is live.

There were no public comments.

**Closing Remarks**, West

West, Dismiss as business has been concluded. Underdown provided the motion, second by Ezell. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.

Approved:

9/9/2022  
Date

  
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Ashley Fuqua, Acting Secretary  
Department of Tourist Development