

TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
Tennessee State Museum
1000 Rosa L. Parks Blvd
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Minutes
May 15, 2023

The Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial met this day at 10:30 AM CT for a meeting with a physical location at the Tennessee State Museum, 1000 Rosa L. Parks Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37243. Notice being given seven (7) days prior on the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development website. The meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM CT by Chairperson Ashley Howell. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

[REDACTED]

Jennifer Core

[REDACTED]

Dr. Warren Dockter

Commissioner Mark Ezell

[REDACTED]

Ashley Howell

Patrick McIntyre

Jamie Ritter

Emily Robinson

Dr. David Chaffin

[REDACTED]

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Clark Boyd

[REDACTED]

Senator Rusty Crowe

[REDACTED]

Senator Todd Gardenhire

Representative G.A. Hardaway

[REDACTED]

Dr. Carroll Van West

GUESTS PRESENT

Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator, Acting Secretary for the Commission

Melanie Beauchamp, Department of Tourist Development, Assistant Commissioner Rural Tourism & Outreach

Mary Katelyn Price, Department of Tourist Development, Legislative Liaison

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

AGENDA

Welcome, Howell

Welcome and call to order for a meeting of the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.

Housekeeping, Grindley

- Roll Call. 8 members were present, 5 members were absent at the time of the roll call. A quorum was established.
- Grindley: asked if any guests were present that may wish to be recognized. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded.
- Approved the April Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Chaffin with second by Dockter. No further discussion, move to a voice vote. All in favor with none opposed. Motion carries.

Budget Proposal, Howell

Howell – One main item on today’s agenda: the budget. All have a copy of the year-end report that summarizes the ideas that came out of the statewide listening sessions. This gives context to some of the plans we aim to do. In addition, you have a draft budget, list of other states’ budgets and the Civil War budget.

Educational programs, workshops, and educator materials

Educator Materials

Expansion of Traveling Trunks and DocBoxes - **\$50,000** (Howell to get a # from W. Suffrage)

Online exhibition of “stories, objects, landmarks, and places”- **\$40,000**

Online support for Patriot Paths at Tennessee State Library and Archives - **\$30,000**

Ezell: We need to gather a list of assets such as historic sites, artifacts, etc. sooner than later.

Howell: Will there be a centralized place for teacher curriculum support via Commission website? Online exhibition and resources could also further support curriculum guides.

Beauchamp: That could live on the industry facing website we have right now.

Core – What are the key words that are part of our mandate that we can mirror in an exhibition like this?

Howell – The commission promotes an inclusive statewide celebration and educational commemoration of America’s 250th by interpreting and preserving Tennessee’s unique stories, objects, landmarks, and places across our diverse state that defined who we are as Tennesseans and Americans.

Educator Training Institute

For curriculum preparation, educator stipends, venue costs, stipends for guest speakers, and publicity. This budget, the organization, and implementation would be shared among the members of *Discover Tennessee History: Teaching with Primary Sources*-MTSU, Tennessee State Museum, Tennessee State Library & Archives, East Tennessee Historical Society, Tennessee State Parks, Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum, and Tennessee Historical Society - **\$50,000**

Core - Funding would be needed for teacher stipends because housing costs, especially in Nashville, have been putting the teachers off from coming to training events that are multi-day.

Publications

Tennessee Historical Quarterly (two issues) one for previously published articles and one for new research. **\$50,000**

East Tennessee Historical Society special issues – **Amount TBD**

Ritter – Like the idea of updating and reprinting older publications. What if we put together a bundle of 10 publications and fund getting that to every public library and high school as a commemorative boxed set?

Howell – Publication committee must hold public meetings, as an extension of this commission. Recommend Dockter, Core and Ritter for this committee. Motion from Howell to establish publications committee with Core as the Chair with second from Dockter. No further discussion, move to a voice vote. All in favor with none opposed. Motion carries.

Signature Programs/Program and Exhibition Grants - \$1,500,000 (increase to \$2,000,000?)

Programmatic grants across the state to support local programming beginning in 2024

Signature events to include a 3-day symposium of new research, 2026

Discussion of the importance of supporting a signature event at Sycamore Shoals in 2030

Beauchamp – There needs to be a lead up to a signature event so the average person has an understanding and wants to attend for the experience. Think about how we can find out what locals are already doing, maybe quarterly requests for what they are doing so we can help promote those events, etc.

Howell – People are not aware that anniversary is coming up. We can ask organizations to start planning.

Robust website and social media tools

Website

Discussion of a need to build a consumer facing website to support programs across the state; need for social media support **Amount TBD**

Ezell – for Civil War, funds were spent on an NPT documentary. Is there storytelling that can be pursued that is worthy of funding as it relates to Sycamore Shoals, or has it already been done?

Tennessee 250th Trail with Interpretive Markers

Historical Marker Program

Program to add and/or augment interpretive markers across the state; budgeted at \$5,000 per marker, total of 75 markers, or **\$375,000**

Could align with an online exhibition of “stories, objects, landmarks, and places”

Core: Suggest that the amount of funding works, but that we lower the number of markers and increase interactivity, through QR codes and possibly AR/VR.

Beauchamp: Would need to place trail blazers on main roads (work with TDOT) and possibly contract with Civil War Trails on installation and upkeep on the markers.

Adequate state funding, staffing, and a grants program

Staffing for Coordination

Multi-year need for support of the coordination of all programs
(staffing support needed over multi-year...estimate \$350,000?)

Beauchamp – Will discuss contract worker with Assistant Commissioner of Administration to see what options the Commission has and if any social media work can be outsourced to an agency or not.

Existing state programs could also support ongoing grant needs.

Old Business, Howell

No old business.

New Business, Howell

No new business.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Closing Remarks, Howell

We will meet again to finalize and vote on these numbers in time for Tourism to include this request in with the rest of the agency requests. Motion to adjourn by Chaffin with second by Howell. No further discussion, move to a voice vote. All in favor with none opposed. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm.

Approved:

7/21/2023
Date


Acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development