

TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
WebEx Video Conference
Nashville, Tennessee

Minutes
February 2, 2021

The Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission met this day at 10:00 AM CT for a meeting, electronic only, using a WebEx forum. Notice being given seven (7) days prior on the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development website. The meeting was called to order at 10:11 AM CT by Chairman Carroll Van West. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rep. Clark Boyd	Patrick McIntyre
Jennifer Core	Mark Norris
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Chuck Sherrill
Rep. G.A. Hardaway	Carroll Van West
Ashley Howell	Cecile Wimberley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sen. Rusty Crowe
Sen. Todd Gardenhire
Cherel Henderson

GUESTS PRESENT

Melanie Beauchamp, Department of Tourist Development, Assistant Commissioner of Rural Tourism & Outreach
Ashley Fuqua, Department of Tourist Development, Legislative Liaison & Acting Secretary for the Commission
Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator

AGENDA

Welcome, West

Welcome and Call to Order.

Housekeeping, Fuqua

- Statement of Necessity: Pursuant to Governor Lee's Executive Order 16 and Executive Order 71, the Commission meeting was conducted electronically by Webex as to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Fuqua asked if any guests were on the call that may wish to be recognized. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded.

- Approved the December 15, 2020 Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Sherrill with second by Boyd, all voted in favor, none opposedⁱ.

Announcements, West

- Wimberley, DAR working closely with national commission and looking to celebrate through 2033. Gave update of possible battles/events that may be celebrated leading up to Constitution. DAR would like to see a focus on all events, not just events of 1776—including how Constitution has shaped nation. Wants to cast a broad net and encompass other organizations including a celebration of Tennessee and 19th amendment. Discussion of placement of historical markers—at least one in each grand division by time of celebration in 2026.
 - Discussion.
 - Hardaway, Wants to ensure African American population is included and connect civil rights events to celebration. Asked for a copy of events for 200th celebration.
- West, Will gather materials from 1976 that are available and will digitize and send to Commission members.
- Wimberley, Will provide DAR chapter information regarding events from 200th in 1976.
- Sherrill, State Library and Archives has a collection compiled by committee for 200th.
- West, Emphasized comments and report from Judge Norris and asked Commission members to read the report. Report did state that SAR is not only focusing on celebration until 2026 but extending it. Thoughts on where to begin and where to end—events before Declaration of Independence.
- West, Regarding MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation—there will be a focus on century farms, family farms that still exist to this time-period. MTSU plans to use the cut-off date of statehood. There are two dozen farms that were settled before 1790. MTSU has been asked to do assessments on family farms, contacted by families. Will also explore ways to assist historical chapters across the state in their endeavors. Want to include students so they can be involved in events over next 10 years.
 - Discussion.
 - Hardaway, Wants to ensure HBCU students will be used to advance causes.
 - West, Relationship with Fisk University, a graduate is working with him at Historic Preservation Center. Will ask for Rep. Hardaway’s assistance to reach out to LeMoyne-Owen. Has collaborated with TSU on a new book.
 - West, Relationship with Cumberland University. A lot of networking to do with universities, high schools, historical organizations, and local groups.
 - Hardaway, Suggestion of an ongoing academic program that comes from historical celebration.
 - West, Will discuss with peers.

New Business, West

- Discussion of Statewide Public Meetings. West said best way to approach celebration is to hear from members of the community. Asked for feedback from Commission as to begin in-person public community meetings in May or August.
 - Ezell asked that public community meetings not occur until the Fall.



- West appreciated feedback and does want to ensure members attend. He will look at weekends in Fall and will discuss dates at next meeting.
- West asked initial thoughts about meetings in major cities or including other areas in state.
- Wimberley recommended a meeting in Tri-Cities considering so many Revolutionary events occurred in that area.
- Howell recommended meetings across state to include all areas to get more input.
- Hardaway also thinks more meetings are better—only concentrating on major metro areas would be a mistake. He believes rural areas may have different perspectives and viewpoints.
- Core asked how many civil war meetings occurred in preparation for that celebration. West said he believed there were 5 meetings, including Cookeville and Johnson City. Does believe 13-14 statewide meetings are best and that DAR will help with scheduling and securing venues. May use development districts as a starting point to organize meetings.

Closing Remarks, West

- Discussion of Future Meetings. The Commission discussed dates and decided a set schedule moving forward is best option. Commission members decided that monthly meetings are ideal and that meetings will occur first Fridays of each month at 9am CT.
 - Motion. Motion for the setting of future meetings at 9am CT. Ezell, previous meetings are set up going forward dealing with economic recovery so he may not be able to attend 9am meetings. West made motion. Voice vote.ⁱⁱ

With all business being concluded, West adjourned the meeting at 10:59 AM CT.

Approved:

03/05/2021

Date

Ashley Fuqua, Acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development

ⁱ For purposes of approval of the minutes, members Rep. G.A. Hardaway and Mark Norris were not present.

ⁱⁱ Because it was not true business but rather for planning purposes, a roll call vote was not taken. A voice vote was conducted.