

Minutes

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

MEETING

Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00PM

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rooms D024 & D025
1301 South 48th Street
Quincy, IL. 62305



"MAKE NO SMALL PLANS - THINK BIG"

Chairman Chuck Scholz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm on December 13, 2023. Chairman Scholz started the meeting by having everyone in attendance introduce themselves.

The commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America Flag.

The commission entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2023 meeting. The motion was made by F. Bryden Cory, and seconded by Jack Freiburg. The minutes were approved as printed by unanimous consent.

Chairman Scholz stated that he appreciated everyone's work. 2023 was the year to get organized, 2024 would be the year of work, and 2025 would be the year of celebration. Chairman Scholz acknowledged the work of Gary Farha, Bryden Cory, Ryan Niekamp and Pam Shaffer.

Pam Shaffer gave a report on the Executive Committee. Mrs. Shaffer stated that the Executive Committee created a task force to provide different levels of giving. Mrs. Shaffer further stated that the Executive Committee's recommendations on sponsorship levels are as follows:

- \$100,000
- \$50,000
- \$30,000
- \$20,000
- \$10,000
- \$5,000
- \$1,000
- \$500

Mrs. Shaffer stated that these sponsorship levels is what will be going out into the community. She further stated that the top level of \$100,000 will hopefully be taken care of through a grant which the commission is applying for in early 2024.

Mrs. Shaffer advised that there is now a sub-committee whose responsibility will be the Camp Point Chautauqua's celebration. Currently, there is no date as the entertainer is working with their agent on an acceptable date.

Mrs. Shaffer stated that there had been two productive meetings with the top-level sponsor for which we were writing the grant, which looks promising. Chairman Scholz and Kathi Dooley are working on drafting a letter that will be sent out soon to the community to let everyone know what will be happening. Chairman Scholz stated that they are working on locking down the dates so they can put them down in the letter. Mrs. Shaffer stated that the Executive Committee is busy trying to attend as many of the different committees as possible. Mrs. Shaffer also stated how impressed she is, as is the Executive Committee with everyone and that all members are awesome and fantastic. It was also reminded that the commission will meet as a full board every other month going forward into 2024.

Jack Freiburg provided an update on the Education Committee. Their stated goals are:

- 1) Development of a ruler: the committee has reviewed some types of rulers, which are limited to around 45 events, and the committee is working diligently to mark the events down to the 45-event space. Reg Ankrom is responsible for the history of the 19th century, and Justin Coffey is responsible for the 1900s – current times. Currently, the committee is working on a list to send out so everyone can recommend their top events to be placed on the ruler. Mr. Freiburg stated that the committee had asked Superintendent of Schools Jill Reis how many students there are in Adams County, and she had provided around 11,000 students within Adams County, which would all receive a ruler.
- 2) Production of a 20-minute film on the history of Adams County. Mr. Freiburg stated that the intent of the film would be to show various groups and classrooms the highlights of Adams County history
- 3) Development of curriculum for fourth and fifth graders of Adams County of Adams County history. Mr. Freiburg stated that they are trying hard to keep it simple. Kathi Dooley stated that the ruler and/or curriculum has to have a “wow factor” so that students want to know more information about the county’s history.

Mr. Freiburg stated that there are some issues with the county’s e-mail. Mr. Niekamp provided details on what has caused the issues with the distribution groups.

Chairman Scholz advised that he really likes the idea of the ruler, but the important piece is the timeline. Chairman Scholz stated that Mr. Mark Field has an idea on building some sort of timeline in front of the Adams County Courthouse.

Kathi Dooley provided a recap of the celebration committee. Mrs. Dooley stated that they have added a couple of new members to their committee. Mrs. Dooley stated that they are working on getting dates finalized. One of the dates to mark down is Saturday, January 18, 2025, which will start off the celebration. Additional dates are July 12th (Payson School House Tour), July 19th (Mendon School House Tour), August 30th (Liberty School House Tour), September 6th (Camp Point School House Tour) and September 27th (Quincy School House Tour) all of the year 2025. Mrs. Dooley stated that the committee is trying to incorporate something during the 2025 Memorial Day weekend with an event that is already happening. Mrs. Dooley stated that there will be two Chautauqs – Camp Point will be at the end of June, and Quincy’s will be at the beginning of June. There will be a collaboration with pre-existing events in April of 2025 and Dogwood Parade in May 2025 and the finale celebration at the Fair Grounds on September 27th and 28th, 2025. Mrs. Dooley stated that she is worried about the final dates as it will be school homecomings and reminded everyone that Saturday’s dances are important for parents to be with their students to take pictures, etc. Mrs. Dooley suggested that we could request the schools not to have their homecomings on these certain nights, but that would need to be done soon.

Leon Woods provided an update on the centennial and sequential farm and the commemoration’s objectives for the bicentennial of Adams County. Mr. Woods asked if the commission would be interested in doing a time capsule perhaps at the Courthouse. Chairman Scholz believes that the commission should be able to acknowledge all of the historical businesses located in Adams County, which are 100 or more years old, and is working closely with Bruce Guthrie at the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Scholz stated that he reached out to the Quincy Historical Society’s president to help with a commemorative sign for each of our local communities.

Mark Field provided an update on the Fundraising Committee. Mr. Field reiterated the different funding levels which they want to shoot for, and after January's meetings, they will start reaching out to different individuals to request money.

Adam Duesterhaus provided an update on the Marketing Committee. Mr. Duesterhaus stated that they created a Google Drive to which all of the different committees have access. Mr. Duesterhaus noted that each committee chair has access to the drives and suggested that they disseminate the information within their committees as appropriate. Mr. Duesterhaus, with the help of Ryan Niekamp, provided a brief demonstration on how to use the drives. Mr. Duesterhaus stated that he was approached by Laura Sievert with Arts Quincy to join forces, and it was approved for them to join a part of Arts Quincy.

F. Bryden Cory provided a financial report. Mr. Cory stated that there was \$3,500 left of the \$5,000 the Adams County Board pledged for FY23. Mr. Cory reported that the County Board pledged an additional \$25,000 for FY23-24, which will be transferred over to the 501(c)3 account. Mr. Cory went over what Arts Quincy will be helping the commission with marketing, social media, etc. Chairman Scholz thanked the county board and stated that the City of Quincy is looking at a potential match of \$25,000 in their new fiscal year beginning May 1st, 2024.

Chairman Scholz provided details that WGEM wants to participate heavily in the Bicentennial and that will start by giving the commission a booth at the WGEM Home and Living Show so there will be a need for volunteers for March 2nd and March 3rd of 2024.

Reg Ankrom provided a brief historical note on a period of Adams County history to the commission on John Wood.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm on December 13, 2023.

Approved