

Minutes

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 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 February 21, 2024. 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 December 13, 2023 meeting. The motion was made by F. Bryden Cory, and seconded by Barbara Fletcher. The minutes were approved as printed by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report given by Bryden Cory – Jack Freiburg made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Seconded; report is approved.

Executive Committee report given by Chuck Scholz. Chuck went over everyone who is on the committee. Mr. Scholz stated that the committee had been approached by the City of Quincy to endorse the Riverfront Performance Base Project. The City of Quincy received a \$50,000 to complete a study so the city can apply for a \$2 million grant. The Committee has also been working on the budget and there have been positive strides in the commemorate committee as it was not realized how many sequential, decennial farms are in Adams County. Additionally, with the 13 or so villages in Adams County, the committee wants to commemorate them by placing some sort of marker at each of those locations. Mr. Scholz stated that Mark Peter is working diligently on the planning of our end of the celebration event. Chairman Scholz stated that the committee is also working on getting the letter finalized and sent out to the community.

Mr. Freiburg provided an update on the Education Committee. Their main goal is first to develop a ruler with 45 or so events. Their second goal would be to develop the curriculum for the 4th and/or 5th graders in Adams County, and a third objective of marketing and promotional items that showcase the Adams County Timeline. Mr. Ankrom is working on the 19th century, and Justin Coffey is working on 20th century to present. Mr. Freiburg stated that the group originally had over 600 events marked but are working on getting it down to the 45 or so events. Dr. Coffey has his list down to 90 as of the past Monday, but they will go ahead and expand the list to 100 events for the 20th century. Chairman Scholz reminded the commission that the timeline is a very important part of the objective as there will be wrapped semi-trailer, etc., to show case the timeline. Mr. Freiburg stated that it's very important that we hit all the age groups with our county's history.

Jane Moody gave the celebration report on behalf of Kathi Dooley. The Celebration Committee did not meet in January due to bad weather. They did meet on Wednesday, February 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Quincy Public Library. Members present discussed the following upcoming 2025 events: The Inaugural Gala committee, led by Erin Knapheide and Ryan Tanner, met on February 12 and discussed hiring entertainment, sound and lights for the event. The Historic Schoolhouse 2025 Tours are well solidified by Paul and Jane Moody and the times for the September 6, 2025, tour will be adjusted to work in conjunction with the September Finale event at the Adams County Fairgrounds. The Moody's will contact the Fairgrounds School Room personnel to arrange opening those facilities during the Finale Event on September 6, 2025. Directors of the Community Band, Park Band and Quincy Public Schools have been contacted about events in 2025. Most are still waiting for 2025 calendars to be set for their organizations and they will get back to the Celebration Committee when their dates have been established for 2025. The Quincy Chautauqua is tentatively set for June 5, 6 and 7 – 2025. Katie Happel oversees that committee, and they are contacting various Adams County artists, musicians, writers and dance groups to participate in the event. The Camp Point Chautauqua is still waiting for confirmation of dates for featured performers. The Bicentennial Finale Celebration is set for Saturday, September 6, 2025, at the Adams County Fairgrounds. Mark Peter and John and Linda Groves are co-chairing that event which will require all commission members to participate in some form on that day. Entertainment, lights, and sound are currently being secured so that the rest of the event can establish other activities.

Important Items still to be determined ARE:

- Dogwood 2025 Parade Float
- Individual Celebrations during 2025 in which each village will dedicate their Bicentennial plaque OR sign.

The Celebration Committee will meet again on THURSDAY, March 7, 2024, at the Quincy Public Library in the SMALL Conference Room.

The Commemorate Committee report was provided by Mrs. Barb Fletcher. Mrs. Fletcher stated that they met recently. The committee is working with Sue McKinney and Daniel Henning who brought in information on time capsule and the sample capsules are located in the Google Drive for the Commemorate Folder. Mrs. Fletcher stated that the commemorates preference is a kiosk type marker with an example located in the Google Drive. Their preference on location is Washington Park over the Fair Grounds; however, the park would have better visibility and be safest. The committee decided on a 50-year timeframe on the capsule so children who might participate in it, would like to see their letters they wrote as a child. Additionally, the county may more than likely participate in a 250th anniversary of Adams County. Mrs. Fletcher provided details on what the farm plaques will be looking like – there is a sample of what they have in mind at the IL Veteran's Home and the pricing on this style is better. Mrs. Fletcher stated that there is a sub-committee for the centennial farms in Adams County that is made up of Mr. and Mrs. Bockhold, Mr. Niekamp, and Mr. Peter. Mr. Peter stated that they anticipate on presenting the awards at the final celebratory event. Mrs. Fletcher stated they are also working diligently on the list of businesses who have been around Adams County with a full list located in the Google Drive.

Chairman Scholz provided a brief recap on the fundraising in Mark Field's absence. Mr. Scholz stated that they are about to jump start fundraising and will be talking with the City of Quincy about assistance of funding as well.

Joi Austin provided a recap on the Marketing Committee. Mrs. Austin stated that Mr. Fields joined the committee's last meeting regarding what the Fundraising committee needs from marketing to seek funds. Mrs. Austin stated that they looked over different funding levels and a "friend of" for anyone who would like to participate. It was also discussed about how to get the message out to the community, and which events the commission should partake in. Additionally, there is now a form located on the website for citizens to share their stories. Mrs. Austin stated that there is a group who does something annually, if they are interested in tying in the Bicentennial theme with it, the marketing committee is working with See Quincy to get on different events and calendars. Mrs. Austin thanked the committee who have been able to use the folders as it helps a great deal to keep up with each other. Mrs. Austin

provided details on who on the Marketing Committee to work directly with each of the other committees to help keep the connections straightforward.

Chairman Scholz brought up the WGEM Home Show. Joi Austin stated that there is a signup genius that has been sent out to everyone and it's very important that there is someone at the booth there. Carlos Fernandez stated that there will be thousands of visitors who go through the event. Joi also stated that the first press release went out, and anyone is more than welcome to use whatever is on the press release. Chuck Scholz stated that there will be a story on WGEM on February 21st on the Bicentennial Commission.

Mr. Reg Ankrom stated that the historical society has agreed to sponsor a book for the bicentennial of Adams County. Mr. Ankrom stated that the society publishes historical events of Adams County, with over 600 different articles. The book would be published later this year, and in 2025. The society stated that the proceeds that the book generates will go to the commission until the end of the bicentennial. Mr. Ankrom stated that there will be about 75 stories in the book, or roughly 250 pages. A hard bound book would be around \$30, and soft bound book would be around \$18. Mr. Ankrom stated the society is currently working on which stories will be in the book. Currently there are about 35 stories about John Wood, and then there will be about 40 stories on Adams County. Mr. Ankrom stated the copy right belongs with the author, and once the stories are finalized, the society will reach out to the author for permissions. Mr. Ankrom stated that the final book should be completed around October or November of 2024.

Mr. Ankrom provided a history story on 29th U.S. infantry as the first colored regime in Illinois for the Civil War.

Chairman Scholz stated that the next meeting is on April 24, 2024. The commission adjourned at 6:45.

Approved