

Minutes

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 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 April 24, 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.

Chairman Scholz thanked everyone for coming.

Everyone went around room and introduced themselves.

Motion to approve was made by Carlos, seconded by Kathi and minutes were approved as printed.

Chairman Scholz introduced Keith from Acclaim Publishing. Keith met with the Executive Committee about two weeks ago about publishing an Adams County Bicentennial Book. The book would be hard back and the proposed book would have 16 colored pages in the front, and 16 colored pages in the back. Acclaim Press would be reaching out to the public to publish the book which is like the ones Keith passed out examples of previous works. The bare minimum of pages would be 200; however, most are over 300 pages. Acclaim Press will reach out to many different entities throughout the community to get stories. The Pre-Sale price would be \$49.99, after release the price would be \$59.99. Acclaim Press reaches out to the public through the post office to 1) purchase the book; 2) add stories to the book and photos – there is not cost for families to be in the book. Keith explained that businesses, organizations, churches can purchase a full page will be in the book with churches and schools being half priced. There are different levels of sponsors for gold, silver and bronze. The commission will approve the book prior to it hitting the press for printing. Keith explained that the commission will be involved all the way throughout. Keith stated that the goal for release is October of 2025 – the average book takes around 15 months from start to finish. Keith stated that there are three different deadlines that would need to be met – he will be providing a timeline, so everyone is aware. There will be a website dedicated to this project so the public may input their stories and pictures digitally. Adam Duesterhaus noted that it's important that with Acclaim Press' press work, it is imperative that it's branded with the commission's logo, designs, ect. Keith noted that Acclaim Press will provide a press kit to be used to local media. Vicki Dempsey voiced the concern that the education committee has been working for months on a timeline and raised concern that the concept of the book came out of the blue. Bryden Cory stated that he had the same concern, and provided details that this book would be used as a professional record of the stories and record. Kathi Dooley asked if there could be a digital version of the book released. Gary Farha mentioned that the book would be proprietary to the publisher and would be profit for the publisher. Keith stated that he would have to ask

the owner, Doug, if a digital version would be applicable. Vicki Dempsey asked to make sure the book is fully inclusive. Jack Freiburg made comment about different sections that should be included in the book such as the breweries. The proposed content outline provided is not set in stone and can be changed how the committee wants. Keith stated that the Acclaim Press has two editors on staff and will edit appropriately and when looking over family stories they try very hard to not change the family stories. Jack Freiburg asked what the risks are in this type of venture. Keith stated they are asking for \$20,000 to get started. A member asked what a sponsorship would be like. Keith stated that they would be outlined and designed to not look like an ad but rather a dedicated page for that business, church, ect. Chairman Scholz stated that the book from the Historical Society's book it will be released this upcoming fall and in no way conflicts with what this book will do. Adam Duesterhaus asked who oversees selling the book. Keith stated that pre-sale Acclaim Press will handle the pre-sales. After the release, it is the hope of a local organization to sell the books. Chairman Scholz stated that the commission would need to spend \$20,000 to get the publisher and currently the commission has \$80,000 and \$25,000 from a foundation grant, and another \$20,000 donated by Mark Field at Liberty Bank. Gary Farha made a motion to spend the \$20,000 and have Acclaim Press be the publisher. Seconded by Bryden Cory. Bryden asked for a discussion regarding the book sale. The commission had a discussion regarding the book. The Chairman asked for a voice vote. The Chairman declared the ayes had it. There were a handful of nays vocalized.

Chairman Scholz stated that WGEM has agreed to be a major sponsor of the Bicentennial's work and give the commission next to unlimited media in the equivalent of about six-figures and they will be completing segments weekly. Scholz stated that all the purchasing done thus far has been on professional services which is exempt from the purchasing policies of the county.

Jack provided an update on the timeline of the ruler. Justin Coffey is completing the 20th century and Reg Ankrom completing the 19th century. Reg had over 500 events, and the committee was able to dwindle it down – the same for Justin's list to have 32 events to be put on the ruler and several people have looked over the timeline and re-worked by several people and they will be meeting with the graphic arts department on the upcoming Friday to see what can be accomplished through the Pepsi's graphic artist. Chuck Scholz stated that the purpose of the ruler is so the ruler will be kept and not thrown away. Jack stated that we have a lot of events locally that have impacted the national and global stage, so the challenge has been figuring out which events make it on the ruler.

Kathi Dooley provided an update on the celebration committee. There are now dates set for several events and now the committee will be needing the money to make the events happen. One of the questions the committee needs to know is how will the tickets be sold (committee, foundation, etc.?). Gary Farha stated that a cost of the tickets needs to be came up with soon before tickets are sold. Kathi also commissioned, Laura Wright, for a poster to be drawn for the commission which includes everyone within the county of Adams. Additionally, Q.U. will add the commission so their symposium in next year's curriculum. Mr. Peter provided an update on the Fair event in September of 2025 – the committee has been meeting and getting details ironed out but needs to get a feel for fundraising before booking an act and the event will be on September 6, 2025.

Chairman Scholz stated that Barb Fletcher is not able to be at the meeting. Ryan Niekamp provided an update on the timeline at the courthouse. He conveyed that he met with two local businesses who want to help on the project along with Mark Field and they are working on create a budget for the project to be submitted for a grant for partial payment.

Carlos provided an update for the fund development and the committee has many different prospects for fundraising. Chairman Scholz stated that we are working on different grants to help achieve all of the commission's goals.

Adam Duesterhaus provided an update on the marketing committee. The committee has asked everyone to continue to push throughout their committees to get stories, pictures, ect for the committee. Marketing has been working with Jenna from Arts Quincy to help with the social media. Chuck Scholz asked if the commission could complete a press conference.

Bryden provided an update on the finances of the commission. Gary Farha asked the celebration committee has sought out already scheduled community events to see if the commission could take part in and they are working on idea.

Chairman Scholz provided a great history lesson to the commission on the great flood of 1993.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.