

# Minutes

## BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

### MEETING

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:00PM

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rooms D024 & D025

1301 South 48th Street

Quincy, IL. 62305



***"MAKE NO SMALL PLANS - THINK BIG"***

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The meeting was called to order by Chuck Scholz, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call followed with attendees introducing themselves. Due to the unavailability of previous minutes, a motion was made and carried to table their approval until the next meeting.

#### **Executive Committee**

Pam Shaffer reported several successful recent events, including the Dogwood Parade on May 3, which featured a well-received float and earned a Governor's Award. Bicentennial-themed float entries were judged with cash prizes awarded. Adams Electric was recognized for a particularly impactful float. Additionally, the Bicentennial trailer debuted at the Bull House with strong public engagement. On May 15, a 150-year recognition sign was presented to Blessing Hospital, including its Lincoln School site. Pam also previewed a booth for the upcoming Adams County Fair and emphasized the need to send out media press releases at least two weeks in advance.

#### **Book Committee**

Adam Duesterhaus shared that over 1,200 Bicentennial books had been pre-sold, surpassing expectations. The first 10–15 pages are currently being proofed by the book committee with final edits expected by June. Plans are on track for a mid-July publication, ahead of the September 6 deadline. Sponsor book allocations are also being confirmed via Google Docs, and the website is being used to maintain an updated sponsor list.

#### **Marketing & Merchandise**

Ryan Niekamp presented a surprise find—Adams County Bicentennial-branded Pepsi cans that are beginning to appear in local retail. A press release will follow upon wider market distribution. Marketing and merchandise discussions also included leveraging the Adams County Fair to sell items such as commemorative coins and apparel, with ideas floated for constructing an eye-catching booth.

#### **Education Committee**

Kathi Dooley outlined the timeline revisions, including added historical and local events. A curriculum video remains in development, emphasizing German immigrant history. A complete educational package is expected this fall, containing a ruler, timeline, PowerPoint, and a teacher's guide by Jill Reis. Workshops will be offered to help county teachers integrate materials into their classrooms. Beth Young also announced two new education-centered events: a July 19 historical symposium featuring notable historians discussing John Quincy Adams, and an August 9 patriotic concert by The Victory Belles at the QCT, with free performances planned for veterans at senior facilities.

### **Celebration Committee**

The All Faiths Celebration was praised for its strong community impact, with particular thanks to John and Linda Groves, Sherry and Kenyon Dennis, and Nathan Seaman of the Quincy Symphony. A bagpiper and a large choir were key highlights. QHS maintenance staff received commendations for their behind-the-scenes support. The group also discussed ticketing for the September 6 finale, confirming that only the Beach Boys concert would require a paid ticket, while other exhibits (heritage farm, veterans' displays, timeline, etc.) would remain free.

### **School Tours**

Jane and Paul Moody shared updates on the detailed planning of school tours, including routes, timing, and logistical coordination with guides and hosts. A professional brochure was distributed to support tour presentations.

### **Academic Symposium**

Beth and Jack Freiberg attended the Quincy University academic symposium where students presented research, including topics like Legionnaires' disease and regional water systems. One group created a professional marketing plan for Quincy's historic district, praised for its quality and potential real-world application.

### **Commemorate Committee**

Leon Wood and Pam Shaffer gave updates on several projects. Businesses celebrating 150+ years will be recognized during the May 26 Quincy Park Band concert. Dave Bockhold is finalizing Heritage Farm improvements, and Pam noted fairground site preparation for the finale. Nancy Benz is coordinating the pop-up banner and mobile trailer schedule, which is accessible via the commission's website.

### **Budget**

Treasurer Bryden Cory reported that the commission broke even for the month, with \$65,000 in both revenue and expenses, including \$8,000 earned from the City of Refuge event. Upcoming expenses include facility relocation for the dance company and video production costs. A Sign-Up Genius form is being launched for volunteer recruitment, with an estimated 200+ people needed for finale events.

### **New Business**

The commission reiterated its commitment to meeting monthly on the third Wednesday of each month.

### **Other Business**

Commissioners were reminded to actively promote events, share Facebook posts, and confirm their involvement in upcoming activities. Adam was asked to include recent accomplishments and events in the history book. Ryan noted that a videographer is capturing events for an end-of-year retrospective. Pam encouraged broader press coverage for the commemorative coins, which are available at banks and the courthouse.

### **Adjournment**

Chuck Scholz closed with a historical story about past presidential visits to Quincy, drawing connections to the region's rich legacy.

The meeting adjourned just before 7:20 P.M.