

Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Meeting Minutes 05/24/2011

Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, Ohio

Commission Members Present: Pat Barker (On behalf of Amir Eylon), Craig Brown, Rick Finch, Peter Hahn, Joshua Mann, Alan Shellhause, Carrie Sowden, Blanca Stransky, Peter Wilhelm, Joseph Zerbey

Working Group Members & Guests Present: Richard Kudner, Richard Rozevink

Commission Members Absent: Andrew Cayton, Amir Eylon, George Ironstrack, Anthony Milburn, Dennis Murray, Louis Schultz

Call to order

Blanca Stransky, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and began with introductions of members and guests present.

Approval of minutes

Ms. Stransky asked for any corrections to the previous meeting minutes. Hearing none, Carrie Sowden made a motion to except the minutes as presented. Seconded by Craig Brown. Approved unanimously.

Civil War 150 Update

Katie Dallos, AmeriCorps employee and NW Ohio CW150 coordinator, gave a presentation on the activities, events, and plans for commemorating the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. Ms. Dallos noted that there are ten regions created in Ohio to help plan events and all are staff by AmeriCorps staff. Her job is:

1. To act as a clearing house of information for Civil War 150th events in NW Ohio.
2. Provide assistance with the planning and coordination of those events.
3. Provide support for projects
4. Facilitate collaboration between counties and communities.

Three themes have been established for CW150 events:

1. Democracy: Visions, Challenges, Breakdown and Expansion
2. Transformation of Ohio and America
3. Memory

Next Ms. Dallos discussed how the CW150 is being commemorated in NW Ohio:

1. Museum exhibits in several institutions
2. School re-enactment outings
3. Re-enactments
4. Traveling trunks and traveling exhibits
5. Essay and art projects
6. Lecture series
7. Website www.ohiocivilwar150.org
8. Northwest Ohio Military History Facebook page, which lists events in NW Ohio that are military related.

Pat Barker noted that the Ohio Division of Tourism has an RSS feed that shoots out information for the CW150 site to tourism sites and several others. She indicated that the Division could do the same for the War of 1812 Bicentennial website.

Pete Wilhelm asked Ms. Dallos if she had an idea of the perception of the War of 1812 Bicentennial with the state. He also inquired if she would have time to help with 1812 Bicentennial efforts. Ms. Dallos responded that yes, the idea was to get the CW150 commemoration started then work on the Bicentennial.

Ms. Barker asked if Ms. Dallos could do a similar PowerPoint presentation regarding Bicentennial projects. Ms. Dallos replied that she could.

Discussion ensued as to which AmeriCorps employees each county or region should work with. Mr. Finch recommended that the Commission contact Jackie Barton with the Ohio Historical Society for a list of regional employees.

Defiance, Ohio Case Study

Richard Rozevink gave a brief presentation on the past and continuing efforts of citizens of Defiance to commemorate the Bicentennial. Mr. Rozevink reported that Defiance was/had:

1. Dedicating five historical markers regarding War of 1812 history. (They started these dedications in 2008).
2. Working with the City of Defiance, the Defiance Genealogical Society, Defiance County Historical Society, and the City of Defiance on Bicentennial projects.
3. Researched War of 1812 history related to Defiance. This helped tremendously when planning markers.
4. Created a driving tour book for 1812-related sites in Northwest Ohio.
5. Had created a video about the Defiance area during the War of 1812.
6. Worked with the Ohio Historical Society and with local schools to help raise monies to get matching grants for historical markers.
7. Conducted historical research coupled with archaeological research to determine the location of Camp #3, one of the camps used in the Defiance area by General James Winchester's troops during the War of 1812.
8. Engaged the Daughters of the War of 1812 to secure funds for the fabrication of a historical marker.

Ms. Barker asked if Mr. Rozevink could put a planning model together that would help other counties and communities in their Bicentennial efforts. Mr. Rozevink indicated that it just took a lot of leg work and research to get things accomplished.

Mr. Zerbey asked Mr. Rozevink how Defiance got children involved in the Bicentennial efforts. Mr. Rozevink replied that he worked with interested teachers. He gave a presentation to the kids and got them interested. The children sold scented pencils as a fund raiser and split the proceeds 50/50.

Mr. Zerbey then asked if the Commission had a map of all the War of 1812 related markers and any indication of where new markers should be placed. He asked if a map could be created by the next meeting.

Mr. Rozevink and Mr. Wilhelm indicated they would work on a map for the next meeting.

Ms. Stransky stated it seems the Commission needs a marketing campaign for these markers. She indicated there is a need to preserve not only the site but the history of the communities to help preserve the site. She wondered if AmeriCorps could create a PowerPoint presentation as a resource to show communities how to do it.

Mr. Zerbey stated that the Commission needs to create a template to take to civic groups and communities to help raise funds for markers.

Joshua Mann stated that there currently exists a list of War of 1812 markers and areas that need markers. This list was created in 1963.

Mr. Finch suggested that Mr. Wilhelm have an intern cross-check the 1963 list with current markers.

Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Logo

Those present looked at many different logo designs and chose three to modify. These logos will be changed and the commission will review at the next meeting.

Modifications:

1. Circle Logo (Craig Brown)- Drop the words "State of" and "Commission." Change the black ink to something more "attractive."
2. Feather and flag with script writing (Craig Brown)- Fix the feather to look less like a quill and more Native American. Drop the word "commission." Use just the U.S. flag and the Union Jack.
3. State shaped logo (Carrie Sowden)- Change the top to a maple leaf. Come up with something besides the tomahawk to represent Native Americans. Drop the words "War of" and "Commission."

Working Group Reports

Public Information and Marketing Working Group (See report)

Alan Shellhause presented notes from the last meeting of this working group.

Mr. Shellhause previewed the working prototype of the Bicentennial website. Discussion ensued about the website and what was liked and should be changed. www.war1812.ohio.gov is the official web address. www.war1812.ohio.gov/default.aspx is the current address while the site is under construction.

Mr. Shellhause indicated that E-Tech Ohio was interested in helping with a smart phone application that may be created for the Bicentennial. Ms. Stransky stated that Perry's Victory Monument and International Peace Memorial has applied for a grant to create an application. She indicated there may be a possibility of an international application. Mr. Shellhause stated that E-Tech Ohio offers their services and could push things out to grades K-12.

Ms. Stransky referred back to the proposed Bicentennial website and inquired how it will be populated so that it rates high on browser searches. Mr. Shellhause stated that the site will be meta-tagged so that it hits search algorithms. Mr. Shellhause proceeded to discuss the features of the site including an events calendar, resources sections, sites sections, links, products section and more.

Mr. Brown stated that he felt the Commission needed a non-government site too. He presented a quote for building and maintaining a non-government site which was \$2,000. He indicated the private site would allow the Commission to modify it as they wished. The state website being created by Mr. Shellhouse had to follow a state template. Mr. Brown presented examples of other websites that the company had created. He stated that the Commission could also sell ad space on the private website.

Ms. Stransky asked if the Commission would have to have parameters for the non-government site in regards to marketing or ads on the site. Mr. Zerbey stated that it was a legitimate question and asked who would oversee that part of the website.

Dr. Hahn stated in principle, he was in favor of just a single website.

Mr. Zerbey asked Mr. Shellhouse if the government website could be modified to have more attractive pictures. Mr. Shellhouse indicated that was possible.

Mr. Zerbey stated that the Commission does not have the money or the staff to maintain a private website. A vote was called to gauge who was in favor of two websites and who was in favor on a single website. All present, excepting Mr. Brown, voted for a single website.

Mr. Shellhouse asked that Commission and working group members review the prototype website and get an ideas or changes to him within the next two weeks.

Mr. Finch requested the Commission members working with logo designers get the logos modified and sent to Commission members within the next two weeks for a vote.

Development and Fundraising Working Group

Mr. Brown stated that he had nothing yet to report because the Commission had yet to define which projects they want to pursue.

Education Working Group-

Dr. Hahn reported that the Education Working Group had met on-line and also this morning to discuss ideas, projects and priorities. He stated that the general idea was that the Commission needed to provide ideas for education at all levels including general public, students, and scholars. One of the first projects of the group will be to identify what curriculum currently exists and what links for resources currently exist. The group will also add additional members from outside the Commission.

Dr. Hahn listed the following as the top ideas to emerge:

1. K-12 Education-
 - a. Creation of lesson plans, especially 4th and 8th grades. Need to determine what exists and what needs to be created.
 - b. National History Day- Create a cash or scholarship prize or possible an internship prize for those students who create projects related to the War of 1812. Emphasis placed on the years 2012 and 2015. One idea is to raise funds for scholarships (\$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 prizes).
 - c. Teacher trainings- there are a fair number of grants going on in Ohio and we need to see if some of those can be redirected to the War of 1812.
2. Making resources available
 - a. Reading list or primary and secondary sources.

- b. Facsimiles documents for research
3. Public Awareness
- a. Create a traveling exhibit potentially funded by the Society of the War of 1812. The exhibit would consist of panels and perhaps a DVD.
 - b. Newspaper based contest- Essay or art contest or some form of new media for middle school students. Local newspapers could provide a prize and help recruit judges from the community. The Commission would create a template and test that with The Blade. The Blade could also help promote the program to other newspapers.
 - c. Web-based travel guide for folks that want to tour Ohio's War of 1812 related sites.
 - d. Speaker's Bureau- This is something to work with the Ohio Humanities Council to develop. Need to identify experts who could provide talks.
4. Original knowledge (Academic Scholarship)-
- a. Conference- Ohio Academy of History Conference with emphasis of the War of 1812. (2013 or 2014).
 - b. A 1-day conference with experts brought in to stimulate original research and creation of new knowledge.

Mr. Wilhelm suggested Dr. Hahn contact Dr. Randall Buchman as Dr. Buchman has created several international conferences.

Mr. Zerbey stated he would be willing to work on the newspaper idea. He stated he could get the Ohio Newspaper Association involved with the project.

Ms. Stransky indicated that the National Park Service has \$45,000 available for programs that combine prominent historians with teachers. The Perry's Victory site would have to receive the funds. The program would teach teachers about history and civics. The grant is due in December.

Preservation Working Group(see hand-out)

Ms. Sowden presented a handout from the working group meeting. There are several projects the group wishes to pursue. The first project is to try to raise funds to give 15-star American flags to every county government, local governments with a War of 1812 history, mayors of major cities, and the governor. The flags will be flown on the 18th of June 2012 to commemorate the declaration of war. Ms. Stransky will contact flag suppliers to get pricing and see if the Commission can get a discount. Up to 200 flags will be given away to those listed above. All other interested parties or individuals will have to option to purchase a flag and participate. A timeline will also be created of significant dates during the War of 1812 and participants will be asked to fly the flags on those dates too.

Mr. Zerbey recommended a letter be drafted from the Commission and sent to each veteran's organization requesting a donation to help purchase a flag for their county.

Another project is to establish a War of 1812 Burials database for the state. This, it is hoped, will show communities that they do have a connection to the War of 1812, and will aid those trying to find their 1812 ancestor. Mr. Shellhouse asked if people would register a known burial on the state website. Ms. Sowden replied the idea was to have the Commission identify the burial sites. Discussion ensued about where to find this information and it was suggested that it could be found in the county recorders offices. Mr. Brown stated that some recorders have such information but not all of them. Mr. Finch

stated that idea of this project is to get all existing records then “flesh out” the list with the help of genealogical societies. Mr. Brown indicated he would help lead this project.

Old Business

Replacement for Senator Steve Buehrer. Mr. Zerbey indicated that he had contacted Senator Mark Wagoner’s office for help in determining who would replace Senator Buehrer. Mr. Finch stated that he had contacted Senator Hite’s office (Senator Buehrer’s replacement) and they stated they knew nothing of Senator Hite serving on the Commission.

Representative from Governor Kasich’s staff. Mr. Zerbey stated that Senator Wagoner is also helping to determine if Governor Kasich wishes to have one of his staff attend Commission meetings.

New Business

Richard Kudner spoke to the Commission about creating a full-color, paperback booklet to highlight sites related to the War of 1812. The booklet would contain sites from throughout the Great Lakes Region and two Canadian provinces. He stated each site would receive two pages of information. The estimated cost for creating the publication is \$25,000 - \$30,000 for 10,000 copies. Mr. Kudner said there were three main questions:

1. How many sites would be featured in the book (if all nine states and two provinces participated)?
2. How would it be paid for? Scenarios include charging each site \$1,500 to be in the book or have each state and province contribute \$3,000 towards publication.
3. Is there enough interest to proceed?

Mr. Finch stated he would be concerned with a “pay to play” scenario that charged sites to be in the book, because some sites might not be able to afford the cost. Also, if state commissions paid the money, who would decide which sites are worthy for inclusion into the book and which aren’t. Mr. Finch also inquired what entity would be responsible for distributing the finished product, handling orders, etc.

Mr. Kudner indicated these issues would need to be decided. He was there to see if there was an interest to proceed. The Commission indicated a preliminary interest but also stated they need more information on logistics, layout, etc. before committing to anything.

Ms. Stransky stated that artist Richard Doyle takes multiple pictures of a subject then creates a collage from those pictures. She suggested contracting for Mr. Doyle to create a collage of Ohio in the War of 1812. The cost is \$1,000 and that provides 25 artist proofs. Additional prints could be ordered for \$5 each. Ms. Barker stated she had seen Mr. Doyle’s work and it is nice but questioned what the Commission would do with the product. Ms. Stransky indicated the Commission could sell them to earn revenue. Mr. Zerbey stated he did not know if the Commission had the means to contract with Mr. Doyle.

Mr. Zerbey stated the Commission needs to look at the creation of a publication that is a lasting memory of what the conflict meant to Ohio and to the nation. Dr. Hahn stated that it could be a capstone of the commemorations. Mr. Zerbey asked the development working group to look into potential grants to fund such a publication.

Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on August 4, 2011 at the Perry's Victory Monument and International Peace Memorial located at Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The meeting will commence at 10:30 a.m. and last until 3:00 p.m., if needed. Ms. Stransky will provide details and travel information on getting to the island.

Mr. Zerbey adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.