

Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Meeting Minutes 10/11/2011

Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont, Ohio (Hosted Hayes Presidential Center)

Commission Members Present: Pat Barker (on behalf of Amir Eylon), Craig Brown, Rick Finch, Susan Gray, Peter Hahn, Joshua Mann, Anthony Milburn, Louis Schultz, Alan Shellhouse, Carrie Sowden, Mark Wagoner, Peter Wilhelm, Joseph Zerbey

Working Group Members & Guests Present: John Destatte, Mary Kay Farrell, David Merkwitz, Richard Rozevink, Christopher Sedlock, Nancy Stump, George Vourlojanis, Pat Williamsen, Jonathan Winkler

Commission Members Absent: Andrew Cayton, Amir Eylon, George Ironstrack, Dennis Murray, Blanca Stransky,

Call to order

Joseph Zerbey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The meeting started with introductions of those present.

Approval of minutes

Mr. Zerbey asked for any corrections to the previous meeting minutes. Hearing none, Peter Hahn made a motion to except the minutes as presented. Seconded by Joshua Mann. Approved unanimously.

Welcoming Remarks

Tom Culbertson, Executive Director, welcomed the Commission and guests to the Hayes Presidential Center. Mr. Culbertson gave those present a brief history talk and an orientation to the site.

Working Group Reports

Public Information and Marketing Working Group

Website:

Alan Shellhouse presented an update of this working group. Mr. Shellhouse stated that the website was up and running and he was receiving additional information to add to the site. Mr. Shellhouse thanked Rick Finch for all of the information that he sent for the website. Mr. Shellhouse noted that more content is still needed to improve the website and keep it fresh. Mr. Shellhouse stated that the website has been contacted from many different states as well as from other War of 1812 related websites asking for links.

Mr. Shellhouse informed the Commission that a press release had been drafted announcing the creation of the website and asked if it was o.k. to send the press release to media outlets. It was affirmed that he should send the press release as soon as possible.

Pat Barker stated that the Commission needs to figure out how to handle press releases. The Ohio Division of Tourism (ODT) could do it, she stated, but the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) would also be good. The OHS Civil War 150 (CW150) has an established press release database that is connected and is history oriented. Ms. Barker asked who on the Commission should sit down and talk to OHS?

Mr. Shellhouse suggested a multi-pronged approach having ODT, the Department of Commerce, & OHS send releases. Mr. Finch recommended that all Commission press releases flow through ODT until

someone can confirm with OHS that they would be willing to handle the Commission's press releases through their CW150 mechanism.

Logo

Mr. Shellhause informed the Commission that the Ohio War of 1812 logo is completed. He is working with ODT and their colleagues to put the logo into several electronic formats for issuance in a press release.

Mr. Shellhause noted that the Commission needs a written statement from the artist granting use of the logo. Carrie Sowden will contact the artist for an official statement of permission.

Mr. Shellhause noted that guidelines have been created for use of the logo by entities outside of the Commission. He asked what the procedure will be if he is contacted by a person to use the logo for merchandising products? Mr. Zerbey replied that there is no time to police such activity so the simplest way is to say that no outside entity can merchandise the logo. Instead, the Commission will handle all Bicentennial logo merchandising.

Susan Gray stated that Governor Kasich made her a Commission member. Mr. Finch stated that the Commission was under the impression that Ms. Gray was a non-voting member, but there would be a follow up with the Governor's office to resolve the question. Mr. Zerbey stated that Mr. Finch will follow up on the question to get this resolved.

Mr. Shellhause stated that the logo guidelines draft could be completed and out to members in a week. Mr. Finch asked Mr. Shellhause to send that electronically to all Commission members for review and an electronic vote. Mr. Finch stated that the logo needs to get out as soon as possible so organizations can start using it.

Preservation Working Group

Flag Project

Ms. Sowden gave an update on this working group. An update was given on the 15-star flag project. Ms. Sowden stated that the project would cost in the range of \$8,000 - \$11,000 to complete as originally planned. She stressed that the Commission needed to get moving on the project and that there were a couple of ways to go. First is to try to find the larger sum of money for the entire project and the second is to downsize the project (at least to start) and buy less flags. If the Commission was to reduce the number of flags to 100 (down from 200) and buy the 4'x6' flag, it would reduce the cost to \$2,500 plus several hundred more dollars for an elaborate flag for the state capital.

Sgt. Mann noted that June 18, 2012 is reserved for an 1812 flag ceremony with Governor Kasich's office. He noted it would not be to the scale of the Civil War 150 event since it is a weekday and there is a smaller War of 1812 re-enactor community. Sgt. Mann stated he needed additional help to reach out to the legislature and the governor. Senator Mark Wagoner stated he would be glad to help reach out.

Mr. Zerbey asked if this ceremony was on Governor Kasich's personal calendar. Sgt. Mann stated that it was not yet on his calendar. Mr. Zerbey stated he would write a letter asking for Governor Kasich's presence at the ceremony and will copy Sgt. Mann on the letter.

A motion was made by Pat Williamsen to secure funding of at least \$2,700 to purchase 100 4'x6', 15-star flags plus one large flag for the state capital ceremony. Motion was seconded by Carrie Sowden and

was approved unanimously. Ms. Sowden was also asked to see if she could speak to Blanca Stransky to see if Mrs. Stransky inquired about a discount from the flag suppliers. If she did not, then Mrs. Stansky or Ms. Sowden should ask if a discount can be given for the project.

Ms. Gray stated that she was President of the Treaty of Greenville Commission. She stated that Commission supplied flags for the Treaty of Greenville Bicentennial and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. She asked Ms. Sowden to speak with her and she would help.

Ms. Barker asked Ms. Gray if the Treaty of Greenville Commission received press from their flag project. Ms. Gray affirmed that they did.

War of 1812 Veteran Burials Identification Project

Ms. Sowden informed the commission that correspondence by Craig Brown and Mr. Finch confirmed that the Daughters of the War of 1812 were working on updating an all-inclusive Ohio War of 1812 veterans' burial database and the Commission we need not peruse the project.

Sunda Peters, Daughters of the War of 1812, stated that the organization was working on updating the project and putting it into a computer data base. She stated that the organization was working to add new names to the list. Mr. Finch suggested the Commission run a link to the database and ask its website for inclusions of any missing names. That is, Ohioans could send information for inclusion into the database.

It was then suggested that the link and information could also be placed on the Daughters of the American Revolution website.

Historic Markers

Mr. Finch stated that Andy Verhoff, Local History Department at OHS, said that the Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial logo could be included on any new War of 1812 related historic markers. The Commission would need to send the logo to him, and also decide if it wanted to charge a fee for use of the logo or not. The Commission could charge \$50 and that money would go back to the Commission for use on other projects.

Other Projects

Ms. Sowden informed the Commission that the committee was working on getting the War of 1812 Bicentennial into the Ohio Archives month and the Ohio Archaeology month for 2012. She thanked Mr. Finch for his contacts in getting this started.

Sgt. Mann asked is the committee was working with OHS and Angela O'Neil. Mr. Finch stated that it started with OHS and has moved out to committees of each respective organization. Mr. Mann stated he would also talk with Angela O'Neil.

Development and Fundraising Working Group

Mr. Brown stated he had nothing to report, and wouldn't proceed with fundraising efforts until the Commission had a plan. Mr. Zerbey stated the Commission needs up to \$5,000 for flags. Mr. Brown stated that should be fine.

Mr. Zerbey also stated that funds are needed for a traveling exhibit. Mr. Brown stated he was not familiar with the project. Mrs. Williamsen stated that a group would meet at lunch to discuss funding.

Education Working Group-

Dr. Hahn updated the Commission on this working group. Dr. Hahn informed the Commission that Jonathan Winkler, George Vourlojianis, and Michelle Klinger had been added as working group members. Dr. Winkler is working on plans for an academic conference through the Ohio Academy of History. Professor Vourlojianis is working on updating the War of 1812 reading list, and Mrs. Klinger is working to develop the War of 1812 Speakers Bureau.

Traveling Exhibit

Mr. Finch stated that the original estimate he received from OHS to create an exhibit was \$25,000. Since then that estimate jumped to \$58,000. Mr. Finch explained that this was not a bid from OHS, but only an estimate from the design and fabrication department of what they thought it would cost the commission to create the exhibit. The bulk of the cost would be for research, writing, and design of the panels.

Mrs. Williamsen asked Mr. Finch if he knew what OHS would provide. Mr. Finch thought the Commission could expect OHS to be a liaison with designers or fabricators and perhaps provide assistance on images. Mrs. Williamsen suggested that a group talk at lunch as she thought the Commission could complete this project at a lower cost.

Bibliography

Dr. Hahn stated that Professor Vourlojianis has agreed to update the on-line bibliography and add to the list.

Speaker's Bureau

Dr. Hahn informed the Commission that Mrs. Klinger has taken on this project and sent a draft to Commission members for review. Members are welcome to comment on the draft. This will go out to educators in Ohio asking them to sign up to be a speaker. The idea is to put speaker's names and contact information onto the Bicentennial website, and organizations can contact the speakers directly so that the Commission does not have to coordinate scheduling or create a series.

Essay/New Media Contest

Dr. Hahn stated this project, when completed, would be a template that would be launched through the Ohio Newspaper Association. The onus is on the newspaper and partnering community or organization to provide prizes, judges, etc.

Mr. Zerbey asked if the contest would be statewide or restricted to each individual community. Dr. Hahn replied that it would be held in each community, but it could go to a state level.

Mr. Zerbey stated there are 83 daily newspapers and 190 weekly newspapers in Ohio. If each paper had their own contest it should cover just about everyone in the state. Dr. Hahn inquired of Mr. Zerbey what he felt participation would be in such a contest. Mr. Zerbey thought every newspaper might. He thought the big daily newspapers would for sure, and he would help to make sure that happens.

Dr. Hahn stated that Mr. Finch had provided him with information on a similar contest in the state of Michigan, noting that Michigan does a statewide contest. Dr. Hahn asked Mr. Zerbey if he felt it better to do a statewide contest or a local contest. Mr. Zerbey felt the local contest would be better and

would get more people involved. He informed Dr. Hahn that he needed something from him to use in an approach to the Ohio Newspaper Association.

Dr. Winkler stated he was familiar with how the contest was run in the 1930s. In that contest they brought 5,000 essayists to Wittenberg. They did a grand ceremony and parade from the high school to Piqua battlefield. He suggested the Commission consider a statewide assemblage of local winners. Anthony Milburn suggested that local winners could compete for a bigger prize. It was suggested that local winners could receive a prize to travel to the state capital and meet their local representative and senator, get a tour of the capital, and perhaps a special luncheon. Dr. Hahn stated that the committee will aim for a 2013 launch of this project.

Academic Conference

Dr. Winkler informed the Commission that the Ohio Academy of History Conference will be held at Bowling Green State University in 2013. There will be an emphasis on the War of 1812. There are also plans for the Society for Historians of Foreign Relations to hold a conference with emphasis on the War of 1812. Efforts are underway to try to secure some funding for these conferences from the Canadian Consulate General.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Zerbey sent around an address sheet asking for any updates and also sent a mock-up stationary sheet asking for corrections or additions so that official letterhead stationary can be created.

Fort Stephenson Presentation

Next Louis Schultz gave a presentation on the Battle of Fort Stephenson in preparation for a trip to the battle site after the meeting.

Announcements

Christopher Sedlock, The Perry Group, updated the Commission of the Battle of Lake Erie event being held in September 1813 at Put-In-Bay (PIB). The event will be held Labor Day weekend 2013 when a fleet of tall ships will reenact the Battle of Lake Erie. This will be the center point of a week of activities on PIB. The Perry Group is offering opportunities to "enlist" and be a "sailor" in the battle. The website for the event is www.battleoflakeerie-bicentennial.com Mr. Sedlock stated that this will be a large event that should bring national attention to the area. This event will coincide with a wreath laying ceremony by the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Zerbey asked Mr. Sedlock where the funding was coming from for this event. Mr. Sedlock stated The Perry Group was working on funding and had a generous donor provide the money for the startup of the event. Mr. Zerbey asked if it was a local group working on it. Mr. Sedlock stated that The Perry Group was affiliated with the Perry's Victory Monument and International Peace Memorial NPS site.

Mr. Shellhause asked if the War of 1812 Bicentennial website was linked to the Battle of Lake Erie website and if not to send a link and a brief description.

Mr. Zerbey asked who would be portraying the Royal Navy. Mr. Sedlock stated that tall ships will be sailing into the Great Lakes in 2013. As the battle is recreated, ships will be sailing in from the north representing the British and other ships sailing in from the south representing the U.S.

Mr. Zerbey stated that he thought this was a great idea.

Mr. Zerbey asked those present to get their events to Mr. Shellhouse for inclusion on the website and onto the sign-up sheet for inclusion into the meeting minutes.

Richard Rozevink stated that there should be a map showing the forts and actions in Ohio which could then be placed on the website. This would help highlight the contributions of counties throughout the state. Mrs. Williamsen stated that Ohio Humanities Council is working with a county in southeastern Ohio that was a mustering point for the War of 1812. She asked if the Commission could spread the project to all counties involved in logistics. She wondered if those facts can be found. Peter Wilhelm stated that yes they could be found, and it should be able to be added to the map.

Ms. Sowden stated that the Commission had discussed contacting county historical societies to highlight the marker project and see if they would take on the funding of new markers. Mr. Finch stated the information should be sent to Christie Weineger, president of the Ohio Local History Alliance to get them involved. Sunda Peters also suggested involving genealogical societies.

Mr. Finch informed the Commission that WNET, Buffalo, New York PBS station had released a smart phone application which highlights War of 1812 Battlefields to visit. It is free to download.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is November 15, 2012 at the State Capital at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Zerbey adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Known Bicentennial Events

Battle of Lake Erie	28 August – 10 September 1813	Perry Group	New
Battle of the Thames	1 st weekend of October		New
Croghan Day	3 August 2013	Birchard Library	Existing
1 st Siege 1813	3-5 May 2013	Fort Meigs	Existing
Founders Day	2 February 2013	Fort Meigs	New
W 1812 Genealogy Workshop	24 May 2012	Fort Meigs	New
Melodies on the Maumee Concert	2 June 2012	Fort Meigs	New
Teacher Workshop	25 – 29 June 2012	Fort Meigs	New
Teacher Workshop	22 – 27 July 2012	OHS	New
Teacher Workshop	5- 10 August	OHS	New
Temporary Display	June – December 2012	Fort Meigs	New
War of 1812 Beer Release	early May 2012	Meigs/Maumee Bay Brewing	
OAH Conference	4-6 May 2013	Meigs/BGSU	New
Independence Day 1813	4 July 2013	Meigs	Existing