

## **Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission**

*Meeting Minutes 28 October 2010*

*Fawcett Center, OSU West Campus*

**Commission Members Present:** Senator Steve Buehrer, Craig Brown, Amir Eylon, Rick Finch, Peter Hahn, George Ironstrack, Joshua Mann, Alan Shellhause, Louis Schultz, Carrie Sowden, Blanca Stransky, Pete Wilhelm

**Guests and working group members present:** Pat Barker (Ohio Division of Tourism), Frank Dunkle (Ohio Humanities Council), Gale Peterson (Ohio Humanities Council), Pat Williamsen

**Absent with prior notification:** Anthony Milburn, Joe Zerby

### *Agenda Item #1 (Call to order)*

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Rick Finch. An agenda was presented to the Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission (the Commission) for approval. Agenda was approved.

Mr. Finch noted that Mr. Zerby gave prior notice that he would not be able to attend. Mr. Finch informed the Commission the Dr. Anthony Milburn, Central State University, would be joining as the representative for the National Afro-Am Museum. However, Dr. Milburn had notified Mr. Finch that he would not be able to attend the meeting.

### *Agenda Item #2 (Approval of previous minutes)*

The minutes from the last meeting were presented for corrections or additions. Misspellings of last names for Ms. Sowden and Mr. Ironstrack were noted. Ms. Sowden moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Minutes were approved.

### *Introductions*

Mr. Finch requested a brief round of introductions because of new participants. Mr. Peterson, in his introduction, notified the Commission that Dr. Andrew Cayton, Miami University, will be the official Commission representative for the Ohio Humanities Council.

Ms. Williamsen asked whether public members had been appointed to the Commission. Mr. Finch stated that the Governor had appointed the public members to the Commission. However, the Commission may appoint other public members to serve on working groups.

Ms. Stransky asked how the Commission was to report back to the Governor's office. Mr. Finch stated that minutes, agendas, and other papers will be assembled for inclusion into the Ohio Archives.

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Ms. Stransky asked if the Commission was independent and had complete authority. Mr. Finch stated that yes; it was created as an independent commission.

Mr. Eylon noted that the Commission should update the Governor's office periodically on the Commission's progress. He suggested the Senator Beuhrer's office may be the best avenue of reporting to the governor.

### *Agenda Item # 3 (Elections Review & Update)*

Mr. Finch noted that he contacted Mr. Joseph Zerby and Ms. Stransky to ask if they would be willing to be nominated as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. He noted that both agreed. Ms. Williamsen moved to nominate Mr. Zerby as Chair and Ms. Stransky as Vice-Chair. Mr. Wilhelm seconded. Mr. Brown motioned that two separate motions be presented to nominate each person individually. Ms. Sowden seconded. Approved.

Ms. Williamsen withdrew her first motion. Ms. Williamsen moved to elect Ms. Stransky as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Schultz moved to nominate Mr. Zerby as Chair. Mr. Peterson seconded. Approved with one abstention.

Ms. Stransky, in the absence of Mr. Zerby, led the remainder of the meeting.

### *Agenda Item #4 (Contact List Review)*

The Commission contact list was reviewed for errors. Dr. Cayton was added to the list. Misspellings of last names and address corrections were gathered by Mr. Finch. Ms. Stransky noted she would contact the Ohio Department of Education to inquire if they will be sending a representative to the meetings as the Commission has not received return correspondence from them in several months.

### *Agenda Item #5 (Working Group Reports)*

*Public Information & PR Working Group-* Mr. Shellhause, Chair, presented ideas and recommendations for the members to review. Mr. Eylon offered to serve on the working group. Mr. Eylon suggested that the Commission develop a mission and vision before making tactical decisions on marketing and public information.

Ms. Stransky recommended that all other working group reports be tabled until the Commission completed its mission and visioning exercise. All agreed.

### *Agenda Item #6 (Mission and vision session)*

Ms. Williamsen led the group in a mission and visioning session to help determine what the Commission wants to accomplish and how they will accomplish their goals. Ms. Williamsen gathered the information and will work to create a draft of a mission statement and goals.

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Ms. Stransky asked if the Commission felt that it should sanction Bicentennial events and give these events an official seal of approval or if the Commission should instead be a resource.

Mr. Brown stated that he thought the Commission would have to sanction events. He noted that people want to be involved and be recognized on a state level.

Ms. Stransky stated that there was a difference between brokering events and putting a seal of approval on an event.

Mr. Eylon stated that sanctioning events may stifle event planning and the Commission could become or be perceived as “event police.” He felt the Commission should encourage people to be creative and develop fun event. The Commission should act as a resource for helping to plan these events. He recommended that guidelines be established for using any logos created by the Commission or its representative, but not be sanctioned.

Mr. Finch agreed with Mr. Eylon.

Mr. Stransky expressed a concern with historical inaccuracy with events.

Dr. Hahn stated that the Commission cannot have their logo associated with bad or inaccurate history.

Mr. Finch stated that any logo created should not be a Commission logo but for the overall Bicentennial and the State’s citizens. He reiterated his opinion that the Commission should exist to provide resources.

Mr. Shellhouse stated that the Public Information & Marketing Working Group would accept the task of crafting guidelines on any future logo usage for review by the Commission.

### *Agenda Item#5 (Working Group Reports) revisited*

*Development & Fundraising Working Group-* Mr. Brown, Chair, stated that the group will start work once the mission and objectives are established. Mr. Brown inquired where raised funds will be deposited. Mr. Wilhelm stated that an account has been established with Northwest State Community College to receive those funds and the account currently has \$2,000 received from the Ohio Humanities Council.

Mr. Peterson noted that the Civil War 150 committee worked with Ohio Humanities Council (the Council) to establish a speaker’s bureau on the Civil War and that the Council could find room for War of 1812 activities and speakers. He also noted that the Council received a “We the People Grant’ from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and that the Council has \$15,000 set aside to help fund 1812 Bicentennial events. He noted that work will need to be accomplished to make sure Council policies

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will mesh with Commission guidelines, themes, etc. Lastly, he noted the Commission will need to identify which projects it would like the Council to fund.

Ms. Stransky stated the National Park Service has grants. One is a Cost Challenge Grant for \$25,000. She noted that it was a matching grant, but the match does not have to be completely in cash; some can be in-kind services. She stated that the money has to be used for a project not staff costs or operating expenses and has to involve technology. She noted that partners needed to be identified by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Ms. Stransky noted that there are multiple other grants available through the NPS. However, these grants had to be primarily tied to a NPS site.

Mr. Schultz stated that the Commission needs to develop programs that recognize Native American participation in the war.

Ms. Stransky informed the group about George Henry who represents seven First Nations groups in Canada and that Mr. Henry was looking for partnerships with organizations. She noted that funding did not seem to be an issue for the group Mr. Henry represents.

*Education Working Group-* Dr. Hahn, Chair, noted he was waiting for:

1. Clarification on funding
2. How the working group should be formed. Specifically, will it only be comprised of Commission members or will non-commission members be able to participate too?

Dr. Hahn stated that he was given permission by the Ohio State University (OSU) to use department infrastructure to help the group. He suggested developing lesson plans relating to the War of 1812 for 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels and to investigate resources for the collegiate level such as a conference, speaker series, etc.

Mr. Finch stated that the Society for Historians of the Early Republic declined the invitation to hold their 2013 conference in Perrysburg. However, Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and Fort Meigs are still exploring the possibility of a War of 1812 conference to be hosted by BGSU.

Ms. Stransky stated that the group needs to find ways to collaborate with other entities, states, etc. and peace should be explored as a topic for a conference too.

Dr. Hahn stated that it comes down to the amount of financial resources available.

*Preservation Working Group-* Ms. Sowden, Chair, stated the group needs more input from what the Commission wants to do and what types of preservation that should be pursued.

It was suggested that the group explore creating a database of all of the known War of 1812 and War of 1812 veteran burials in the state. Mr. Finch suggested the Commission utilize genealogical societies to do the “leg work.” This would the societies get involved

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in the bicentennial. The Preservation Working Group could create a template to provide to the societies that would give guidance and create continuity.

Ms. Stransky noted that the Commission could go a step further and go out to communities to talk about burial sites and grave sites that are endangered.

Mr. Finch commented that the group first needs to know what sites exist. He further recommended that instead of giving a speech, that the group work with OHS to develop preservation workshops that will teach citizens how to preserve burial sites.

### *Agenda Item #7 (Old Business)*

E-Tech Ohio- Mr. Shellhause noted that the Commission could contact E-Tech Ohio and determine the sites they operate so that some meetings might be held via video conferencing to cut down on travel time, expenses, etc.

Ms. Stransky inquired if there was a fee or if advance notice was required. Mr. Shellhause stated that reservations would be required. However, costs may possibly be already absorbed.

Senator Beuhrer noted that some decisions may still need to be made in a face-to-face quorum to meet the rules of the Public Meeting Act.

### *Agenda Item #8 (New Business)*

Ms. Stransky asked if there were any other requirements of the Commission, besides making the meeting minutes public.

Mr. Shellhause noted that the Commission should make public the time and location of the next meeting.

Mr. Finch recommended the formation of a public information database for citizens and organizations that want to stay in contact with the Commission.

Ms. Stransky inquired as to who will field inquiries about the Commission and who is a point of contact. Mr. Dunkle and Mr. Shellhause recommended a website be created for the Commission/Bicentennial.

Ms. Stransky asked if the Commission should be inclusive and reach out to groups that bring new perspectives to the work groups. Ms. Barker stated the Commission should. Mr. Eylon recommended that all present should think of potential groups or individuals that would contribute to a group and send those recommendations to the respective chairs of the working groups.

Ms. Stransky asked if the working groups needed to keep minutes. Mr. Eylon noted that working group reports should suffice. Senator Beuhrer recommended that agendas should be saved and some notes compiled to be include in the archives. Senator Beuhrer also

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requested that agendas for work group meetings be sent to all Commission members so they are aware of what projects the working groups are discussing.

Dr. Hahn inquired if it was the responsibility of working group chairs to solicit members. Mr. Eylon suggested that every Commission member should participate in a working group.

Working Group members thus far:

*Public Information and Marketing-* Alan Shellhause (Chair), Amir Eylon, Pat Barker, Senator Steve Beuhrer, Lou Schultz, Blanca Stransky

*Development and Fundraising-* Craig Brown (Chair), Pat Williamsen, Blanca Stransky

*Education-* Peter Hahn (Chair), Frank Dunkle, Andrew Cayton, Rick Finch, Joshua Mann, Blanca Stransky, George Ironstrack

*Preservation-* Carrie Sowden (Chair), Pat Wilhelm, Blanca Stransky, Rick Finch

Ms. Stransky then asked for Senator Beuhrer's input as to whether the Commission should be a sanctioning body or resource. Senator Beuhrer stated that there is no guidance in the legislation to answer that question. However, he felt the Commission should be a resource and not a sanctioning body. He suggested that Commission could pick and promote some "marquee" events but nothing sanctioned.

Ms. Stransky asked about the logo? Consensus was reached that the Commission won't sanction a logo, but will have guidelines for its usage.

Ms. Stransky asked how the Commission would be educated about the War of 1812. Mr. Schultz recommended "A Wampum Denied" by Sandy Antal. Mr. Finch recommended that Mr. Schultz compile a recommended reading list for the Commission. Mr. Schultz agreed to compile the list.

Ms. Stransky requested that each Commission member submit a photo and bio of themselves for publication.

Ms. Stransky inquired as to the schedule of meetings for the Commission. Mr. Eylon suggested meeting bi-monthly to let working groups meet in the off month. All agreed.

Mr. Eylon motioned that the Commission endorse Ms. Stransky to use all resources in the NPS to advance the purposes of the Bicentennial in Ohio. Mr. Wilhelm seconded. Motion was passed.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, 12 January 2010 from 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. the Ohio Humanities Council will inquire about using meeting space at their facility and if it is not available the Commission will meet again at OSU.

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It was suggested that a citizen of Defiance, a community that is already well advanced in their planning for the bicentennial, be invited to discuss what the community is planning. This would be used as a “case study” for what communities could do. Mr. Wilhelm stated he would ask Mr. Richard Rozevink to speak at the next meeting about what the citizens of Defiance are accomplishing to commemorate the bicentennial.

Mr. Peterson stated that Council funds can be used to cover travel expenses for any Commission member that needs reimbursement.

Mr. Wilhelm motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms Sowden seconded. Approved.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.