

State of Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Inaugural meeting 24 September 2010

Commission Members Present: Senator Steve Buehrer, Craig Brown, Rick Finch, Peter Hahn, George Ironstrack, Joshua Mann, Alan Shellhause, Louis Schultz, Carrie Sowden, Pete Wilhelm; Pat Williamsen

Guests present: Randy Buchman, Michael Emmons, Richard Kudner, Richard Rozevink, and Randy Buchman

The first meeting of the State of Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission (the Commission) was called to order at Noon by Michael Emmons, Northwest State Community College (NWSCC), who served as facilitator. An agenda was presented to the Commission.

Agenda Item #1 (Welcome and General Overview)

Mr. Emmons turned over the floor to Tom Stuckey (President, NWSCC) and Pete Wilhelm (NWSCC) for welcoming remarks and an introductions. The floor was then turned over to the Honorable Steve Buehrer, who introduced the legislation into the Senate. Senator Buehrer gave a brief history of the origin of the legislation and the idea behind forming the Commission. He also expressed his thanks to the individuals (Pete Wilhelm, Dr. Randy Buchman, Dick Kudner, Richard Rozevink, and Rick Finch) who helped to draft the legislation and give testimony on its behalf.

Agenda Item #2 (Commission Members' & Visitor's Self-Introductions)

Introductions were made around the meeting table giving each commission member and guest an opportunity to tell the commission members about themselves and their background.

Agenda Item #3 (Commission Elections: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer)

Mr. Emmons called for elections of officers to the commission. No nominations were received amongst the present commission members for Chair or Vice-chair of the commission. Discussion ensued regarding electing commission members Blanca Stransky (Perry's Victory Monument and International Peace Memorial) and Joe Zerby (Toledo Blade) to fill these positions. It was agreed that these members would be contacted to gauge their interest in serving in one of these capacities.

Discussion moved to the nomination of treasurer. It was agreed that since NWSCC was selected to administer any funds for the commission (per the legislation) that the NWSCC member to the commission should serve as treasurer. Mr. Schultz nominated Mr. Wilhelm for treasurer. This was seconded by Mr. Finch. Mr. Wilhelm was elected unanimously.

Discussion moved to the nomination of secretary. Mr. Schultz nominated Mr. Finch. This was seconded by Mr. Shellhause. No other nominations were received. Mr. Finch was elected unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 (Commission: Background and General Purpose)

Mr. Emmons presented material highlighting the creation of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission as well as material on the Maryland Bicentennial Commission and Virginia Bicentennial Commission. He also handed out a list of possible areas of concentration and sub-committees. The list included the following suggested areas of concentration and subcommittees:

1. Mission & Vision
2. Programs & Events
3. The Schools- Education & Curriculum
4. Tourism & Marketing
5. Development/Fundraising/Sponsors
6. Preservation & Documentation
7. Promote Research & Academic Interest

Mr. Emmons asked for any additions to the list. Mr. Finch suggested that the Commission consider borrowing from Parks Canada and have a “lasting legacies” area which would encourage creating projects and deliverables which would last well beyond the bicentennial. He suggested this could be anything from historic markers, to trails, buildings, etc. Mr. Shellhause suggested looking at sustainable projects that would be long-lasting.

Mr. Brown stated that the Commission should have a role in planning events. Discussion ensued about what that role would be. It was generally agreed that the commission should not plan events on a local level, but instead be a resource to help local organizations and communities plan their events. These resources could include a website to place events on a “master calendar,” provide contacts for re-enactors and living historians that may participate in an event, provide historical information, etc. Ms. Williamsen stated that Ohio Humanities Council could help by issuing Requests For Proposals (RFP) for events.

Dr. Hahn suggested that in addition to local interests, the Commission can advocate for research on the history of the war on a state, regional, and international level. He also discussed options for working with elementary teachers to create curriculum for primary schools (as they teach Ohio history). Ms. Williamsen stated that Ohio Humanities provides funding for Teacher Workshops and this option could be pursued.

Mr. Finch recommended that numbers two (programs & events) and four (tourism & marketing) be combined into a subcommittee entitled Public Information & Marketing. Ms. Snowden moved to create this sub-committee and Mr. Shellhause seconded. No further discussion and approved unanimously.

Ms. Snowden moved that Mr. Shellhause be named Chair of the Public Information & Marketing sub-committee. Ms. Williamsen seconded. Mr. Shellhause was elected unanimously.

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Discussion ensued regarding a development/fundraising committee. It was agreed that this sub-committee would be beneficial to the commission. Mr. Brown stated he would be interested in serving on this committee. Ms. Snowden made a motion to create the Development and Fundraising sub-committee. Ms. Williamsen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sowden nominated Mr. Brown for Chair of the Development and Fundraising sub-committee. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hahn suggested that numbers three (the schools-education & curriculum) and seven (promote research and academic interest) be combined into a sub-committee. Ms. Sowden nominated Dr. Hahn as Chair of the Education sub-committee. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued about the need for a Preservation sub-committee. Mr. Brown nominated Ms. Sowden as Chair of the Preservation Committee. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Dr. Buchman suggested that the commission find and review the work that was created by Richard Knopf regarding the War of 1812 in Ohio. This would provide background information for the commission. Ms. Williamsen stated she will find Mr. Knopf's works and make copies for the Commission.

Dr. Buchman also urged the commission to consider how it could help coordinate programs throughout the state so that events are not conflicting with each other. Ms. Williamsen inquired if one of the colleges or universities in the state could give an internship or a graduate assistantship to help facilitate coordination. Dr. Hahn cautioned that a graduate assistantship may be too costly, but that internships may be possible.

Mr. Shellhause stated that the meeting notes should be placed in the public record. He will coordinate press releases and on-line documentation. Mr. Finch will speak with the archivists at the Ohio Historical Society to inquire about placing information into the archives for preservation and future study.

Much discussion ensued regarding developing a mission and vision for the commission. Mr. Finch stated that he would gather potential themes that were discussed when drafting the legislation and would make those available to members. Ms. Williamsen offered her services in leading a visioning exercise at the next meeting. It was agreed that a large portion of the next meeting should be devoted to developing a mission and vision for the commission.

Discussion turned to the use of video conferencing for future meetings in an effort to cut down on travel costs. Mr. Emmons stated that NWSCC has video conferencing capabilities. Mr. Shellhause stated he would look into the possibility of using E-tech Ohio to use for video conferencing and to create a web forum for commission members to post

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information and correspond with other members. It was also agreed that some meetings will require a face-to-face presence.

The next meeting date was tentatively set for 28 October from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to be held in Columbus, Ohio and hosted by the Ohio Humanities Council. Ms. Williamsen would research availability of using their site. Mr. Finch, in absence of a Chair or Vice-chair) will develop an agenda for the next meeting and issue it to committee members.

Ms. Snowden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Williamsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.