

**TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
Microsoft Teams Video Conference
And In-Person
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Minutes
August 25, 2023**

The Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial met this day at 2:00 PM CT for a meeting both in-person and utilizing a Microsoft Teams forum. Notice was given seven (7) days prior on the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development website. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM CT by Chairperson Ashley Howell. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Core
Dr. Warren Dockter
Commissioner Mark Ezell
Ashley Howell
Patrick McIntyre
Jamie Ritter
Dr. Carroll Van West

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Clark Boyd
Dr. David Chaffin
Senator Rusty Crowe
Senator Todd Gardenhire
Representative G.A. Hardaway
Emily Robinson

GUESTS PRESENT

Alicia Widrig, Department of Tourist Development, General Counsel, Acting Attorney for the Commission
Andi Grindley, Department of Tourist Development, Outreach Projects Coordinator, Acting Secretary for the Commission
Melanie Beauchamp, Department of Tourist Development, Assistant Commissioner Rural Tourism & Outreach
Mary Katelyn Price, Department of Tourist Development, Legislative Liaison
Diana Bramble, Superintendent, National Park Service Southern Campaign Sites
Jennifer Bauer, Former Park Manager at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park
Joel Davenport, Tennessee Sons of the American Revolution

AGENDA

Welcome, Howell

Welcome and call to order for a meeting of the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.

Housekeeping, Grindley

- Roll Call. 7 members were present, 6 members were absent at the time of the roll call. A quorum was established.
- A statement of necessity will be filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State’s Office within two days per Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-108(a)(3). The Statement of Necessity was read into the record at the onset of the meeting, per statutory requirements for electronic meetings, and rendered as essential to select commission officers and discuss educational opportunities and a budget request.
- Approved the July Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Dockter with second by Ezell. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Representative Clark Boyd		Ashley Howell	Y
Jennifer Core	Y	Patrick McIntyre	Abstain
Senator Rusty Crowe		Jamie Ritter	Y
Dr. Warren Dockter	Y	Emily Robinson	
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Y	Dr. David Chaffin	
Senator Todd Gardenhire		Dr. Carroll Van West	y
Representative G.A. Hardaway			

Motion carries.

Budget Request, Howell

1. Howell: Howell and Ezell met with Governor’s team on July 24. Great support for what we have planned and great interest in listening sessions. Commission was asked to create a request for 3 fiscal years and encouraged to think widely. Howell sent 3-year budget draft to Commissioners showing increases in categories. Revised request is \$6,435,000.
2. Ezell: We were encouraged to go in boldly with an ask.
3. West: Budget reflects vision of Tennessee communities from listening sessions.
4. Howell: Happy to discuss the request with the legislators on the Commission along with any other Commission members who would like to reach out.

Motion to approve budget request of \$6,435,000 for three fiscal years by West with second by Ritter. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Representative Clark Boyd		Ashley Howell	Y
Jennifer Core	Y	Patrick McIntyre	Y
Senator Rusty Crowe		Jamie Ritter	Y
Dr. Warren Dockter	Y	Emily Robinson	
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Y	Dr. David Chaffin	
Senator Todd Gardenhire		Dr. Carroll Van West	Y
Representative G.A. Hardaway			

Motion carries.

Legislation Changes, Ezell

1. Ezell: Potential legislation changes include allowing a designee for commission members as well as a possible shift to another agency.

Old Business, Howell

1. Officer selection
 - a. Howell: Is there a need from Tourism that we consider additional officers to this commission?
 - b. Widrig: As legislation is written, Chair is the only officer, correct?
 - c. Howell: As written, yes. Commission also decided to include Past Chair and Chair of Publications Committee.
 - d. Widrig: As commission does not have bylaws, technically a non-commission member cannot serve as an officer. Recommend a secretary at minimum.
 - e. Howell: Any nominations for a secretary and vice chair or think on it and discuss at the next meeting?
 - f. Ritter: Table for the next meeting.

New Business, Howell

1. West: The gathering of heritage groups to commemorate the Overmountain Men is 9/9/23 at Sycamore Shoals State Park. West will be speaking. Good opportunity to network and hear thoughts on 250th. Dockter will also attend and give comments.
2. Bramble: Schedule in chat box. Additional events in Tennessee 9/24-26/23.
3. Howell: What is the recommendation on frequency of these meetings? Continue monthly on Fridays until funded.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Closing Remarks, Howell

Motion to adjourn by Ritter with second from McIntyre. No further discussion, move to a roll call vote:

Representative Clark Boyd		Ashley Howell	Y
Jennifer Core	Y	Patrick McIntyre	Y
Senator Rusty Crowe		Jamie Ritter	Y
Dr. Warren Dockter	Y	Emily Robinson	
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Y	Dr. David Chaffin	
Senator Todd Gardenhire		Dr. Carroll Van West	Y
Representative G.A. Hardaway			

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Approved:

2/28/2024
Date


Acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development