

**TENNESSEE COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION
WebEx Video Conference
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Minutes
March 5, 2021**

The Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission met this day at 9:00 AM CT for a meeting, electronic only, using a WebEx forum. Notice being given seven (7) days prior on the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development website. The meeting was called to order at 9:12 AM CT by Chairman Carroll Van West. Roll was called and a quorum was established, with the following members present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Warren Dockter	Mark Norris
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Carroll Van West
Ashley Howell	Cecile Wimberley
Patrick McIntyre	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rep. Clark Boyd
Sen. Rusty Crowe
Sen. Todd Gardenhire
Rep. G.A. Hardaway
Jennifer Core
Chuck Sherrill

GUESTS PRESENT

Melanie Beauchamp, Department of Tourist Development, Assistant Commissioner of Rural Tourism & Outreach
Ashley Fuqua, Department of Tourist Development, Legislative Liaison & Acting Secretary for the Commission

AGENDA

Welcome, West

Welcome and Call to Order.

Housekeeping, Fuqua

- Statement of Necessity: Pursuant to Governor Lee’s Executive Order 16 and Executive Order 78, the Commission meeting was conducted electronically by Webex as to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Fuqua asked if any guests were on the call that may wish to be recognized. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded.
- Approved the February 2, 2021 Minutes of the Commission without a reading, as the Minutes were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Motion by Ezell with second by Norris, all members present voted in favor, none opposed.

Announcements, West

- West, asked all members to introduce themselves to Dr. Warren Dockter since this is his first meeting of the Commission. He recently assumed the seat of Chere Henderson upon her retirement.
 - All members introduced themselves.

New Business, West

- Discussion of a need for a mission statement for the Commission.
- Discussion.
 - Norris, important to develop a mission statement to assist with Commission's guidance and policy. Told group Fuqua could draft.
 - West, any other comments for need for a mission statement.
 - Wimberley, a mission statement will help Commission focus intentions and will provide the Commission with an elevator speech and a launching point.
 - West, wants to open discussion for a working group for the creation of a mission statement. Will ask Norris' input to get West Tennessee angle along with Rep. Hardaway. For Northeast Tennessee, the Commission will ask for Senator Gardenhire's input. Chairman West will start conversation and then working group will edit: Wimberley, Fuqua, West and then send to legislators. Reach out to identified parties to begin process of writing a mission statement on Monday, March 8, 2021.
 - West, established April 9, 2021, meeting as deadline to have a mission statement to share with the entire Commission.
 - West, Has begun talks with state parks who is ready to go on planning a celebration.
- Howell, the mission is the what. The public meetings are the how. Need to get a mission statement prior to public meetings. Commitment to a timeline for a mission statement.
 - Chair will speak with state parks to share our support but that Commission cannot yet speak to any official events.
 - Wimberley, thinks that discussions with state parks may help shape activities of Commission.
 - Ezell, Department will do what it can to support the Commission and interactions with the Commission. TDTD will do whatever necessary to support communication, timing, events.
- Discussion of the American 250 Commission/Foundation.
 - Wimberley discussed DAR's role in the American 250 Commission and what a partnership agreement would look like for the Semiquincentennial Commission. She will work with Commissioner Young to set up an introductory meeting and exploring an agreement and partnership.
 - Wimberley asked to see if American 250 Commission would be available to meet with Semiquincentennial Commission on its April or May meeting.
 - West, discussed the American 250 Commission's website and video.



- Howell, supportive of Wimberley’s discussions with commission/foundation.
- Dockter, supportive of Wimberley’s discussions with commission/foundation.
- West, acknowledged it is not a perfect fit (efforts may be in different timelines) for this Commission’s work but still wishes to see what partnerships are available and to see the activities of the Commission/Foundation.
- Discussion from Wimberley about social media presence for Semiquincentennial Commission.
 - West and Beauchamp discussed in 2020 the Department’s willingness to create a website.
 - Social media discussion will happen at April meeting.
- Wimberley, The Hermitage will host an unveiling of the marker for the Lafayette Trail on March 15, 2021 at 10am CT. Wanted to inform group in case anyone was interested in attending as well as informing the group in case the Commission wanted to incorporate the Lafayette Trail into any of its celebrations.
- Norris, discussion of a Patriot’s Pathway concept for the department to explore. Also announced his replacement on Commission. Will provide contact to department.

Closing Remarks, West

With all business being concluded, West adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM CT.

Approved:

6/4/2021
Date

Ashley Fuqua, Acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development