

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

**Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2020**

Members Present by Video Conference:

Rep. Clark Boyd	Sen. Rusty Crowe
Sen. Todd Gardenhire	Jennifer Core
Commissioner Mark Ezell	Cherel Henderson
Ashley Howell	Patrick McIntyre
Mark Norris	Chuck Sherrill
Carroll Van West	Cecile Wimberley

Members Not Present:

Rep. G.A. Hardaway

First Meeting Chair: Commissioner Mark Ezell

Secretary: Ashley Fuqua

Department of Tourist Development Staff:

Melanie Beauchamp
Andi Grindley
Catherine Mayo
Ashley Fuqua

Pursuant to Governor Lee’s Executive Order 16, extended by Executive Order 65, this meeting was held via WebEx video conference. All members joined via video conferencing system, including the Secretary, Legislative Liaison Ashley Fuqua.

- The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Commissioner Mark Ezell. Opening remarks included an introduction of each member.

- Ashley Fuqua explained the Governor’s Executive Order and why this meeting was held in a virtual format.
- Ms. Fuqua stated there would be a chance for public comment later but knew one member of the public was present for the meeting. Mr. Tom Bennett participated in the meeting. He represents the American Battlefield Trust in Kentucky and will begin helping them in Tennessee starting January 1, 2021.
- Ms. Fuqua conducted a roll call of members. Eleven members were present at roll call. Senator Rusty Crowe joined after the roll call. Representative G.A. Hardaway was not present.
 - A quorum was established.
- Mark Norris thanked Senator Todd Gardenhire for his work on the legislation that formed the Commission.
- Ms. Henderson announced this would be her only meeting as she was retiring. She explained her replacement would be Dr. Warren Doctor.
- Commissioner Ezell explained the purpose of the Commission to the membership.
- Commissioner Ezell opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. [The Public Chapter required the Commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development to conduct the first meeting but required the election of an official Chair of the Commission.]
 - Mark Norris motioned to nominate Carroll Van West as Chair.
 - Senator Rusty Crowe and Senator Todd Gardenhire seconded the motion.
 - A roll call vote was conducted. The vote was 11-0 with all members present voting yes and one abstention by Carroll Van West.
 - Carroll Van West was elected as Chair.
- Carroll Van West made his first remarks as the newly elected Chairman. He noted the history of the country and the role Tennessee played in its history. He also noted accomplishments of many of the members of the Commission. He gave his thanks to the legislators: Rep. Clark Boyd and Senators Crowe and Gardenhire. He stated his excitement to lead.
- Melanie Beauchamp described her role for the Commission and explained that the Department of Tourist Development would be assisting with marketing for the Commission.
- Commissioner Ezell asked Ashley to discuss the requirements of the Commission and necessary information that needed to be reported. Ms. Fuqua relayed requirements under Public Chapter 384.

- Mark Norris submitted a comment to ask about further reporting requirements and if deadlines were met. Ms. Fuqua reported.
- Newly elected Chairman Carroll Van West said he would work with the Department of Tourist Development staff to draft a report to be sent to the Governor's Office and the General Assembly.
 - He mentioned that he would let members know about future meetings but hoped to have monthly meetings until planning was in place.
 - Ms. Fuqua stated that she would remain as Secretary for the Commission.
- Commissioner Ezell asked if there was anyone present from the public that wished to comment. No comments received.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

Approved:

02/02/2021

Date



Ashley Fuqua, Acting Secretary
Department of Tourist Development