



## ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 5, 2018

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Springfield, Illinois

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Emily Bastedo\*; Representative Tim Butler; James Cornelius, Ph.D. \*; Alderwoman Kristin DiCenso; Randy Dunn (Co-Chair); Marc J. Gordon; Lori Healey (Co-Chair)\*; David Joens; Jim Kinney; Marilyn Kushak; Mayor James O. Langfelder; Alan C. Lowe\*; Dan Mahoney Sr.; Rikeesha Phelon; David Scott; Ruth Slottag; Larry Spivack; Samuel Wheeler, Ph.D. \*

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT BY PROXY

Chris Young (representing Michael Wiant Ph.D.)\*

### GUESTS PRESENT

Joe Fernandez, Jr., Borderz Importz; Hector Arellano, Borderz Importz; Scott McFarland, Serve Illinois

### COMMISSIONERS & PROXIES PRESENT BY WEB CONFERENCING

Mayor Liandro "Li" Arellano Jr.; Joe Higgins (representing John Crowley); Karen Darch; Susana Meza; Stephanie Pace Marshall, Ph.D.; Donovan Pepper; Sheena Quinn (representing Jerry Reinsdorf); Joyce St. Clair; Bernanda "Bernie" Wong

### STAFF PRESENT

Terrence Hill, Tonya Lamia, Stuart Layne, Leslie Munger, David Perlmutter, Katie Peterson, Lisa Post, Megan Steinkirchner

### CALL TO ORDER & OPENING REMARKS

Co-Chair Lori Healey called meeting to order and thanked Commissioner Alan Lowe and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum for hosting the meeting, lunch, and U.S. Post Office First Day of Issuance Stamp Ceremony. She then welcomed our newest Commissioners:

- Alderwoman Kristin DiCenso, who is with Illinois Health Care Association and City of Springfield
- Tony Esposito from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity; she thanked Brittany Ladd for her service and congratulated her on her new role in the Office of the Governor
- Marc Gordon, President & CEO of Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association
- James Zallie, president and CEO of Ingredient; she thanked Llene Gordon for her service and congratulated her on her retirement

Co-Chair Healey stated that new Commission Bio Booklets are in meeting packets, and our website Leadership page has also been updated.

Commissioners discussed remaining quarterly meetings of the Commission:

- Thursday, June 7 from 1 – 3 PM in Chicagoland
- Thursday, September 6 from 1 – 3 PM in Springfield
- Thursday, November 8 from 1 – 3 PM in Chicagoland
- We also plan to schedule a final Commission meeting in February 2019 to review our accomplishments and release a final report

Commissioners were asked to talk with Tonya Lamia on staff if they would like to host an upcoming meeting in Chicagoland or Springfield.

To better communicate and provide more timely information, we have also scheduled new monthly conference calls for the Commission in addition to quarterly meetings. Co-Chair Healey thanked Commissioners for the suggestion at our last meeting and all those who responded to our survey. All calls will be held from 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM on the third Thursday of the month, starting on Thursday, March 15 and ending on Thursday, December 20. Staff will send reminders with dial-in details via email in advance of each call.

Commissioners also reviewed a new calendar handout in their meeting packets with important dates they may want to add to their schedules.

#### DECEMBER MINUTES

Once quorum was determined to be present as indicated above, the December 2017 meeting Minutes were approved with a motion from Commissioner Representative Tim Butler and a second from Commissioner Ruth Slottag.

#### BICENTENNIAL SIGNATURE EVENTS

Co -Chair Healey gave an update on Illinois Bicentennial Signature Events that are planned by our Commission.

- The Illinois Bicentennial Plaza will be dedicated on August 26. The Plaza, which is currently being restored, will be a pedestrian walkway that connects Lincoln's Home and the Illinois Executive Mansion. We have developed a tentative plan for the dedication on August 26, starting at 3:15 PM to include the University of Illinois Marching Band and Illinois National Guard fly-over; an official ribbon-cutting dedication and ceremonial cake cutting with Eli's Cheesecake; "Ravinia Springfield" concert by Ravinia Jazz Ensemble; and remarks by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Governor Bruce Rauner, First Lady Diana Rauner, Illinois REALTORS CEO Gary Clayton and President Matt Difanis, Commissioner and Mayor Jim Langfelder, and REALTOR Zeke Morris. Commissioners will be invited to attend a private VIP barbeque at the executive mansion where Trailblazers will also be invited to attend.
- In East St. Louis on August 26, we will host a family festival to promote family values and health and wellness at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Community Center. This Bicentennial Celebration will include community vendors, musical entertainment, and a focus on St. Claire County's rich history. Jackie Joyner-Kersey is scheduled to attend, and entertainment will include the Jesse White Tumblers, a National Guard display, local food vendors, and local entertainment. Commissioner Richard Mark was thanked for his leadership on this event.
- Plans are underway for the Route 66 Motorcycle Ride to be led by Governor Rauner on August 26, which will feature stops at Illinois' Route 66 roadside attractions and the event will culminate at the new Illinois Bicentennial Plaza in Springfield. Possible stops include Chicago, Pontiac, Bloomington, Lincoln, and Springfield. Discussions are underway about having the ride end in Springfield so participants can attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Bicentennial Plaza.

- Planning efforts are underway for additional Signature Events to take place, including:
  - [Chicagoland Speedway Bicentennial Midpoint Celebration](#) on June 3 for the NHRA Route 66 Nationals;
  - [DuQuoin State Fair Veterans Day](#);
  - [Ravinia Bicentennial Salute to New Orleans Music Influence in Illinois](#); and
  - The [Prairie Heritage Ride's Spoke to Farm Tour](#), which will highlight the vital and historically significant role that agriculture has played in the State. Engaging in agri-tourism, riders will have awesome opportunities to visit working farms that produce a variety of staple and specialty goods, as well as vineyards, microbreweries, a historic farmstead and grain elevator, and other historic agricultural sites. This five-day bicycle tour will feature stops in Springfield, Lincoln, Bloomington, Champaign, and Decatur from September 10 through September 14.
- The [Illinois Bicentennial Birthday Party](#) will be held at the United Center on December 3, when Illinois will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of becoming the 21<sup>st</sup> state of the Union. It will be a celebration that commemorates the rich history of Illinois; the people, places, events, and contributions that truly make us #IllinoisProud. The evening will include video tributes, celebrity appearances, and entertainment by some of the most accomplished Illinoisans. The video segments will be hosted and narrated by some of the most accomplished Illinoisans and will cover Politics/Society (Lincoln to Obama and beyond); Arts/Culture; Industry/Innovation; Entertainment/Movies/Music; Sports; and a tribute to our Veterans. We will bring back and recognize many of Illinois' greatest.

#### ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Co-Chair Randy Dunn provided an update on Illinois Bicentennial Signature Projects that are planned by our Commission.

- At our last quarterly meeting, Matt Summy from Comcast and Scott McFarland from Serve Illinois proposed that our Commission lead a [new signature project for Volunteerism and Philanthropy](#). We are pleased to report that the project has been added to our website, and a letter to Commissioners is provided in meeting materials. Commissioners discussed possible Bicentennial goals for this Signature Project and considered details that Serve Illinois will track, including: total number of companies and organizations participating and registering their projects; total number of volunteers serving on the registered projects; total number of hours served by volunteers on the registered projects; and total number of people served through registered projects. For reference, the Illinois Bicentennial Coordinating Committee of Springfield is leading a volunteerism project with a goal for volunteers to serve 200 hours each during the Bicentennial year . . . They multiplied that number by a population of 100,000 to reach a goal of 2 million hours.
- We are also pleased to announce that a new Signature Project – [Illinois Top 200](#) – was recently launched by ALPLM. Illinoisans can join the state's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration by choosing the 200 greatest people, places, and things in state history in online voting coordinated by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, The State Journal-Register, and the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. Every two weeks through the rest of 2018, the public will get to select the best movies, most inspiring leaders, greatest books, top businesses, and more. By the state's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 3, voters will have chosen 10 favorites in 20 different categories – the Illinois Top 200. Special thanks to Commissioners Alan Lowe, James Cornelius, Sam Wheeler, and their team at ALPLM for leading this effort.
- Governor Rauner officially released The Illinois Chronicles - our [Bicentennial K-12 Education Resource](#) - on January 29. Illinois Chronicles is a timeline book which contains more than 50 news articles and 100 historical moments, presented on a 6-foot-long foldout timeline that charts the history of the state from its birth in 1818 to 2018. The online educator's guide is available to every teacher in the state for free (public, private, parochial, and home school). The Illinois State Library is creating a talking book for the visually impaired. The printed book is available now on our website [illinois200.com](http://illinois200.com) (click SHOP or STORE), at Amazon.com, and at select book retailers across the state. All K-12 schools will be sent a free copy of the book this spring as part of the Bicentennial campaign.
- The [Road Scholars Speakers Bureau](#) was officially announced on January 12 at the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities in Edwardsville. This year's edition of Illinois Humanities' popular Road Scholars program will feature

writers, folklorists, storytellers, musicians, living history actors, and others who are being tapped to add historical flair to Illinois' yearlong Bicentennial celebration. The current roster includes 43 different presentations given by 33 presenters on subjects, ranging from 200 years of folk music in Illinois to steamboats to the tale of an African-American civil war nurse. When the Bicentennial year is finished, approximately 150 presentations will have been given throughout the state.

- The Bicentennial STEM Fusion Campaign was launched on February 23 in partnership with Illinois Math and Science Academy. The highly renowned IMSA Fusion initiative presents a unique curriculum for middle school teachers to inspire 4th through 8th graders to study math and science and pursue careers in technology, medicine, education and business. We thank Abbott and Wintrust for being the presenting sponsors of the Bicentennial Stem Fusion campaign. All Bicentennial Office programs are privately financed. Additional funding for this campaign is provided by Boeing, Ingredion, Takeda, and Motorola.
- Restoration efforts continue at the Illinois Executive Mansion in Springfield, and the official opening is going to be on July 14. The Art in Illinois exhibit features 80 pieces of fine and decorative art, with 20 from never-before-seen private collections. Renovations are being completed on time and on budget, with nearly \$15 Million raised in private funds. They look forward to providing customized tours with professionally trained tour guides, seven days a week.
- AnswersMedia has been selected as production partner for our statewide BORN, BUILT & GROWN Multimedia Campaign. The first video spots (broadcast, digital & social) are in production. An additional three rounds of spots are being scripted and storyboarded. AnswersMedia is meeting with additional state agencies and associations to source new content, including the Department of Agriculture; Illinois Manufacturers Association; Illinois Association of Museums; Illinois State Museum; ALPLM; and American Institute of Architects (IL Chapter). The campaign will be released simultaneously through social media. The team is coordinating with the Illinois Broadcasters Association to engage local media outlets throughout the state. Commissioners then viewed the first video spot, which introduces the BORN, BUILT & GROWN brand messaging for our celebration. Subsequent spots will feature messaging regarding innovation, leadership, and more.
- We are pleased to announce that goodcity has agreed to partner with Bicentennial at no cost to help lead the #IllinoisProud Awards. These awards will represent the spirit of Illinois and will be modeled after the Acting Up Awards managed by goodcity for the Chicago Community Trust. Our plans have been modified to focus on 22 larger regions, and the regional boundaries coincide with the 22 workforce regions of the state; there is a map in your meeting materials today for reference. The purpose of the Awards is to deepen civic involvement and cultivate greater social engagement with the Bicentennial celebration. Intentionally small Awards are aimed at supporting grassroots, community-based projects that may have a lasting impact for the future. It is our goal to award at least 50-100 Awards within the 22 regions, and judging will be handled regionally with oversight from our Commission. To start, goodcity and staff will host meetings with leaders in every region to include our County Liaisons to Bicentennial. goodcity will then help secure local sponsors to cover at least one Award per region with support from local leaders; additional funding to support more Awards will be crowdfunded at the regional level, as well. Details and updates will be shared with our Commission over the next few months.
- We thank Erica Jeffries for announcing details of the Bicentennial Veterans Program Honor 200 at our last quarterly meeting. Nominations can be submitted by mail or online at [www.illinois.gov/veterans](http://www.illinois.gov/veterans). It is critical that we reach out to local veterans organizations so they nominate their deserving veterans. The deadline for submission is July 31. Special thanks to presenting sponsors Boeing and Walgreens.
- Planning efforts are underway for a new Signature Project called Rooted in Greatness. Rooted in Greatness is a unique and interactive multimedia presentation that will feature our state's rich history: Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama; cultural giants Walt Disney and Oprah Winfrey; leaders like Ida B. Wells and Jane Addams; artists and writers Carl Sandburg and Muddy Waters; and sports icons including Michael Jordan to Ernie Banks. This traveling exhibit will impact multiple leading nonprofit arts, culture, and tourism organizations including: Timeline Theatre Company, LUMA, Chicago Historical Museum, Choose Chicago, and top

Convention and Visitors Bureaus across the state. Special thanks to Commissioner Lou Raizin for his leadership on this project.

#### COMMEMORATIVE MERCHANDISE

Co-Chair Healey provided an update on Illinois Bicentennial Commemorative Merchandise that is led by our Commission.

- She thanked everyone who attended the first-day-of-issuance dedication ceremony for the U.S. Postal Service Illinois Statehood Stamp. This stamp celebrates Illinois Bicentennial, and it will be sold nationally throughout the year. The stamp art features an outline of the state map with a series of yellow beams radiating upward like the rays of a rising sun. The colors begin at the bottom with a deep yellow, fading upward to pale yellow and then into pale blue, with increasingly deeper blues rising to the top of the state's outline. The yellows and blues symbolize the dawning of a new day as the state joins the Union. Stars, representing the first 20 states, grace the top of the stamp. The rising sun symbolizes the 21st star. Congratulations to Chicago artist Michael Konetzka for designing the stamp.
- In December, Governor Rauner joined Pepsi MidAmerica COO John Rains to unveil the limited-edition Illinois Bicentennial Pepsi Can and to pop open the first edition to come off the production line. The commemorative cans are available at stores and markets in the Pepsi MidAmerica distribution territory – principally central and southern Illinois – throughout the Bicentennial year. Special thanks were given to Commissioner Harry Crisp for helping us get these estimated 5 million cans out to his region.
- On February 8, Governor Rauner also tapped the first keg of our Bicentennial commemorative beer – 1818... Prairie State Farmhouse Ale - at Binny's Beverage Depot Tasting Room in Lincoln Park. Hand of Fate Brewing Co. of Petersburg created the special birthday brew, which is being distributed statewide by Breakthru Beverage Illinois. Special thanks to Commissioner Rocky Wirtz and his team at Breakthru for partnering to make 1818 available across the entire state. Restaurants and bars featuring craft beer will offer 1818 throughout Illinois. The week of March 6, the beer 1818 will be available in cans at area retail locations across the state, including Binny's, Hy-Vee, and Jewel Osco. A formal announcement of the can release will be in mid-March. Commissioners then watched a video of Governor Rauner tapping the first keg of beer.
- Co-Chair Healey announced that El Nacimiento Tequila has been officially endorsed to produce and sell Bicentennial Commemorative Tequila. They plan to produce 2,000 premium bottles in the shape of the state that will contain seven-year-aged Tequila. They also plan to put the Bicentennial Master Logo on all other packaging of their products distributed in Illinois in 2018. A portion of proceeds from every sale will be donated to support our #IllinoisProud Awards. Details are coming soon regarding an official announcement, special tasting event for the Commission, and statewide kickoff events on Cinco de Mayo. El Nacimiento is one of only two Tequilas imported in Illinois. Joe Fernandez and Hector Arellano from Borderz Importz and El Nacimiento thanked the Commission for their partnership.
- We are excited to partner with the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance on their Rose' Wine project. Participating member wineries will produce a Bicentennial Rose' wine, and each partner winery will make a donation which will then be given to a to-be-determined organization or program that furthers the growth and development of the wine industry in Illinois.
- Co-Chair Healey thanked Commissioner John Powers, who has donated the first Bicentennial uniform patches to be distributed to sports teams across the state. Several local, regional, and higher ed athletics departments have given verbal approval that they will wear patches on uniforms in the coming months.
- Finally, Co-Chair Healey reminded Commissioners that our website features an online store for commemorative merchandise. All Commissioners are invited to contact Tonya Lamia or David Perlmutter to learn how they can order discounted, co-branded Bicentennial Merchandise for use at your companies and organizations.

## ILLINOIS OFFICE OF TOURISM

Co-Chair Healey reported that Commissioner Cory Jobe recently announced Bicentennial initiatives being led by the Illinois Office of Tourism. Last week at the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, attendees heard that Cory's office is taking every opportunity to put our destination's Bicentennial story front and center. Over the next few months, The Office of Tourism will launch a variety of media-targeted programs, including:

- A GoPro partnership utilizing key influencers and select individuals to build user-generated content;
- A social media documentary series featuring 200 residents, born and raised in the great state of Illinois;
- An Illinois 200 themed Chicago skyline;
- Bicentennial corn mazes (in true Midwest-fashion);
- A Bicentennial addition to the Big Things in a Small Town collection in Casey, Illinois;
- Open House Illinois – an opportunity for Illinois' best and most significant sites to open their doors to the public;
- A visit from Big Lincoln on national TV to announce the Illinois Bicentennial Birthday celebration; and
- A special giveaway from the Illinois Office of Tourism and Southwest Airlines of 200 free trips to Chicago.
- And because no birthday would be complete without a cake ... Eli's Cheesecake Taste Around Illinois celebrations, featuring our very own Illinois Made flavor, Honest Abe Apple and Original Plain Cheesecake.

Co-Chair Healey stated that we greatly appreciate the partnership and support from Commissioner Cory Jobe and the Illinois Office of Tourism; they were also instrumental in helping us launch our new website [illinois200.com](http://illinois200.com) with TimeZoneOne.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Co-Chair Dunn and Executive Director Stuart Layne reported that we have in excess of \$1,135,000 in corporate commitments. Sponsors committed include Wintrust, Boeing, Comcast, Abbott, United Airlines, Walgreens, Ingredion, and BMO Harris. Programs that remain to be funded include Illinois Chronicles, Road Scholars, #IllinoisProud Awards, Ag program, August 26 events, and the December 3 Birthday Party. Fundraisers Joan Etten and Lori Montana continue to reach out to corporate sponsors, associations, and individual donors.

The Trailblazers donor program is a way for individuals and corporations to be recognized to include permanent recognition on a plaque at the Bicentennial Plaza in Springfield.

## COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Co-Chair Healey thanked Commissioners Representative Butler and Senator Althoff for hosting an Illinois Bicentennial reception with state Legislators on February 6. House Tourism, Hospitality and Craft Industry Committee convened a hearing for Bicentennial testimony on February 6th, chaired by Rep. Anne Williams. IML President Brad Cole and Stuart Layne outlined what has been going on so far with Bicentennial, what to expect, and best ways to engage legislators and their constituents.

With direction from Representative Butler and Commissioner Brad Cole, Bicentennial will now produce a weekly Bicentennial Bulletin that they will be sending to their contacts and constituents. Our goal is to provide this to all resources that can push our message out, including Commissioners. The objective is to build our social media followers and website viewers. Commissioners can expect to begin receiving the Bulletins in the coming week, and we request that you consider forwarding it to your networks and using information for social media posts.

Representative Butler distributed and introduced a Resolution supporting the placement of statues of President Ronald Reagan and President Barack Obama on the State Capitol Grounds. Statues of President Abraham Lincoln and President Ulysses S. Grant currently reside on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol. With a motion and a second, the

Bicentennial Commission voted to approve the Resolution supporting the placement of the statues (see Resolution attached).

Beginning late January, Bicentennial brought on a freelancer to assist with social media. As a result, we're beginning to see an increase in likes and follows, but we have a long way to go. We intend to post Bicentennial-related content three times per day going forward. Posts will include Illinois-centric inspirational stories like underdogs, people helping each other, and amazing accomplishments; content from our BORN, BUILT & GROWN multimedia campaign, featuring Illinois businesses, inventions, and firsts; upcoming activities through our officially endorsed partners, projects, and events; and feel good stories and Bicentennial merchandise promotion.

A new Bicentennial Parade Float will be designed, built, and serviced for the remainder of the Bicentennial year by Deon A. Bolden Float Consultant and Design. The Float will be unveiled to the public at the 2018 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 17 and will be entered in other parades, including the Polish Constitution Day Parade; Memorial Day Parades in Aurora and Chicago; Chicago Pride Parade; Bud Billiken Day Parade; Columbus Day Parade; 26th St. Mexican Independence Day Parade; and Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. Commissioners are invited to participate with us in the parades, which will be mostly limited to the Chicagoland area due to transport issues related to moving the float. Additional community organizations will be invited to ride and walk with our float, as well.

Bicentennial has partnered with the Illinois Department of Human Rights to promote core values of fairness and equity through events and digital promotion. Events are being planned in Springfield, Rockford, Quincy, East St. Louis Metro Region, Chicago, Davenport, Moline, Rock Island Region, Peoria Region, Carbondale, and Marlon Region. These events will include a Kick-off of Fairness and Equality Campaign, Celebration of Black History Month, Celebration of Fair Housing Month, a Back-to-School event, and a Human Rights Day Celebration.

Staff has also partnered with the outreach team in the Governor's Office to connect with community leaders throughout the state. We are speaking at meetings and events, promoting how third parties can submit applications for endorsement by Bicentennial to become an official PARTNER, EVENT, and PROJECT. For example, most recently staff presented at two leadership meetings in the Polish Community, which resulted in their creation of a Polonia Bicentennial Committee that is now officially endorsed as a PARTNER to Bicentennial. Several key community events have already been submitted by their committee for endorsement, and we anticipate that they will identify many more. A follow-up meeting was also held with the Consul General of Poland, who asked for our endorsement of their upcoming event in Chicago this summer that will include a private reception and event with the President of Poland; details will be shared soon. Another example of recent engagement efforts – thanks to Commissioner Jan Kostner – is a presentation we made at the 6th Annual Canal Alliance Congress, where leaders in the I&M Canal National Heritage Area focused their entire annual meeting on the topic of Bicentennial. The result is that they are now an endorsed PARTNER who will submit several events and projects in the Illinois and Michigan Canal area.

Additional outreach efforts include:

- On February 8th, an Abe Lincoln Bust dedication was held at the Palmer House in Chicago. In honor of Abraham Lincoln's 209<sup>th</sup> birthday and this year marking the state of Illinois' Bicentennial, The Palmer House unveiled the quarter ton bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln gifted to them in 2016 by James Seletz, the son of the sculptor, Emil Seletz, who was BORN in Chicago.
- On February 12th, ALPLM held a Bicentennial Art Contest in Springfield. Student artists created these images and hundreds more for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's annual children's art contest. The contest's theme for this bicentennial year was "Happy Birthday, Illinois," and nearly 500 students from 42 schools - and one library and one homeschool - submitted art for the competition. The winning art, along with some of the other top submissions, will be displayed in the Lincoln Presidential Museum for the rest of the year.

## OFFICIAL THIRD-PARTY ENDORSEMENTS TO DATE

Statewide partners and event and project managers planning activities through December 3, 2018 are encouraged to apply for endorsement to become an official part of Illinois Bicentennial. It is our goal to endorse 1,000 third parties during our celebration year.

Co-Chair Healey reminded Commissioners that they were automatically endorsed as Official PARTNERS to Bicentennial. Commissioners received artwork for the PARTNER Seal for your websites and marketing materials and have been asked to submit each of their individual events and projects on the PARTICIPATE page of our website for them to be promoted and recorded as being part of the official celebration.

Co-Chair Healey stated that we are pleased with the number of applications received to date. To date, we have endorsed 43 PARTNERS, who are planning Bicentennial-related events and projects throughout our celebratory year.

They are:

1. Alliance of Polish Clubs in the USA
2. American Institute of Architects, Illinois Council
3. Canal Corridor Association
4. Chicago Blackhawks Warriors
5. Chicagoland Polonia for Illinois 200
6. Chinese American Museum of Chicago
7. Fremont Public Library District
8. goodcity
9. Grayslake Area Public Library
10. Hand of Fate Brewing Company
11. Hellowater
12. Hoogland Center for the Arts
13. Illinois Bicentennial Coordinating Committee of Springfield
14. Illinois Executive Mansion Association
15. Illinois Health and Hospital Association
16. Illinois Municipal League
17. Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association
18. Illinois REALTORS®
19. Illinois State Organization National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
20. International Women's Baseball Center (IWBC)
21. Jonesboro Bicentennial Committee
22. Lake Forest - Lake Bluff Historical Society
23. Les Amis du Fort de Chartres
24. Lewis and Clark Community College
25. McHenry Public Library District

26. McLean County Museum of History
27. Moraine Valley Community College
28. Peoria Riverfront Museum
29. Pepsi MidAmerica
30. Plainfield Public Library District
31. Prairie Skies Public Library District
32. Prairie State Conservation Coalition
33. Prospect Heights Public Library
34. Randolph Co Bicentennial Tourism Committee/Board of Commissioners
35. Serve Illinois
36. Shelby County Bicentennial Committee
37. Sounds Of Good News, CEO dba Young Eagles Success YES Club
38. St. Clair County Historical Society
39. Tequila El Nacimiento
40. The Lincoln Academy of Illinois
41. Vermilion County Museum Society
42. Westchester Public Library
43. Will County Historical Society

One of our PARTNERS - Young Eagles Success YES Club – provided a CD for Commissioners that features the children, youth, and young adults they serve. The group is focused on “Social Emotional Learning” with "At-Risk" Students in select Illinois School Districts. Recently at a Bicentennial endorsed EVENT in Rockford called “Let It Shine”, the YES Club honored two of our Commissioners - Gloria Cardenas Cudia and Mayor Arellano - at their 12th Annual Dr. King Day Celebration; Lieutenant Governor Sanguinetti also participated in the event. Co-Chair Healey thanked the YES Club and Professor Carl Cole for their partnership and participation with Illinois Bicentennial.

To date, we have also endorsed 102 third-party EVENTS that are taking place in communities throughout the state, and we have endorsed 52 third-party PROJECTS. Commissioners were asked to visit the EVENTS and PROJECTS pages at [illinois200.com](http://illinois200.com) to learn details about these many exciting activities happening throughout the state and were encouraged to attend and participate.

#### COMMENTS/QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONERS & PUBLIC

Co-Chair Dunn asked for public comments or questions.

#### CLOSING REMARKS

Co-Chair Dunn made closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

\* Non-Voting

Illinois Bicentennial Commission

Resolution supporting the placement of statues of President Ronald Reagan and President Barack Obama on the State Capitol grounds.

WHEREAS, Illinois Executive Order 2016-11 established the Illinois Bicentennial Commission to recognize and celebrate the many cultural, economic, academic, and political contributions that Illinois and its residents have made to the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, members of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission are tasked to work on behalf of all Illinoisans to advance the vision of Illinois' past and future; and

WHEREAS, in the history of Illinois, four United States Presidents have deep roots to the Prairie State: Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, the life of these four Presidents will be celebrated throughout our Bicentennial year, including a special exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum entitled From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was born on February 6, 2011 in Tampico, Illinois, moved with his family to Dixon in 1920, and graduated from Eureka College in 1932; and

WHEREAS, Barack Obama has been a resident of Illinois for over 30 years, was only the third President to be elected as a resident of Illinois, and served Illinoisans in both the United States Senate and the Illinois State Senate; and

WHEREAS, two of the four Presidents with Illinois roots, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant, are honored through statues on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Presidents Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama are not honored through statue on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, On October 5, 1918, in celebration of the Illinois centennial, the state placed on the Capitol grounds statues of Illinois' two most well-known statesmen from its first 100 years, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, each a member of a different political party; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Bicentennial Commission believes a proper recognition by the people of Illinois for the legacies of President Ronald Reagan and President Barack Obama, the two most well-known statesmen from Illinois during its second 100 years, would be the placing of statues on the Illinois State Capitol Grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly and the Office of the Architect of the Illinois Capitol can authorize statues on the Capitol grounds, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Illinois Bicentennial Commission that we resolutely encourage Members of the Illinois General Assembly to work together to place statues of both President Ronald Reagan and President Barack Obama on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol as a lasting memorial of the State's Bicentennial, and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage these statues to be placed by 2021, a year marking the 110th birthday of Ronald Reagan and the 60th birthday of Barack Obama, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Bicentennial Commission urges all costs for these statues to be raised and expended from private sources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution should be forwarded to the President of the Illinois Senate, the Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives and all Members of the Illinois General Assembly.