



## **Semiquincentennial Commission Meeting**

Nebraska History Museum, Gilmore Room  
131 Centennial Mall N, Lincoln, NE 68508

**Monday, August 29, 2022**

**12:00 p.m. CST**

### Meeting Minutes

History Nebraska Interim CEO/Director, Jill Dolberg, commenced the meeting at 12:02 p.m. CST by welcoming the members of the Semiquincentennial Commission. The purpose of this meeting is to get to know each other and that there are no action items on the Agenda.

There is an opportunity to appoint a Vice Chair and a Secretary for the Commission but there is time to reflect on whether this is a role a member would like to fill or if members are content to be participants.

Ms. Dolberg suggested smaller subcommittees, such as an education or social media arm and other areas. Someone added that they like the idea of breaking it into smaller pieces with more focus on certain areas and everyone has their part.

Ms. Dolberg noted that the last event was the Sesquicentennial celebration in 1976. During that celebration people got excited over colonial history, culture, arts and crafts. We have an interesting opportunity over the next four years to figure out how best to present this celebration to the public.

### Discussion of goals or visions for this celebration

- Everyone has the opportunity to do something in his or her community and to do something statewide. People need to be able to do something and participate
- Recognizing work that has been done in the community that was not recognized before, as well as diverse activities that represent all communities.
- A community service award that honors everyday Americans who have contributed to history.
- Everyone can have a footprint on sharing this history. It can range from classroom webinars and classroom experiences to celebrations on the Fourth of July.
- Using newspapers, radio stations, TV, and social media, we can point out Nebraskan's role in our nation's history. We're essential to the history of the nation and this is how we had our role in that.
- Creating a Nebraska Semiquincentennial social media account.
  - Additional comment: To get social media up sooner than later and ask people what they want to see.
  - Additional comment: Set up a table at events and pass out brochures to spread the word, and refer to a website.
- Creating a Nebraska Logo to be used in conjunction with the national logo.
- Engagement through genealogy and looking back to find ancestors. What were they doing? Where were they living? What were their conditions? Posting these stories on our social media site.
- "The Past, The Present and the Future" - Kids research past and present famous Nebraskans and then pretend to be them while sharing their stories. The kids would then share what they want to be in the future. Ms. Dolberg expressed how she is excited to meet Commissioner Ebony McKiver who works for the Nebraska Department of Education and loop them into this idea. We will be receiving a \$10,000 grant and an account is already set up. The more money we have, the more we can provide to kids. Maybe we should think about doing a little fundraising.

- Possibly through this Commission and other projects we develop, it could be either a new bronze of a little-known Nebraskan, whose story needs to be told as part of our gift to the state. What is the tangible thing we can leave behind so that people 20 or 40 years from now can see how we were going to honor Nebraska history.

#### Frequency of Meetings

- Every quarter and the closer we get, the more often.
- Quarterly for the first year and we'll pick it up as the anniversary gets closer.
- As we have more ideas, we'll have more items to check back in on with regard to progress, requiring more frequency.

The Commission adjourned at 12:40 p.m. CDT



## COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

**Dan Arp II:** He is Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice that conducts law enforcement training standards and revocation of law enforcement licenses for criminal misconduct and provides oversight of the police. He is filling the Nebraska Humanities spot and he has been on the Council since 2015. He is also a public historian and has written 60 articles and a book. He does research on the side. He believes this is important, because it gives citizens an opportunity to engage in history. It is also a good checkpoint to see where we are in history.

**Jeff Barnes:** He is a Nebraska Historian and History Presenter. He has been a Speaker for Humanities Nebraska for the past 15 years. His first book was about the military forts of the Indian Wars, and since then, he has written six more books about Great Plains Nebraska history. Next month, he will have done his 750<sup>th</sup> presentation on history. His bucket list is to present in every county in Nebraska. He hopes to bring his History and Journalism background, as well as geographic background for having traveled across Nebraska.

**Candace Cain:** She is a 22-year veteran teacher who taught at Columbus Public and now currently at Burwell Public Schools in English, Theater, and Family and Consumer Sciences. She has volunteered for the last few years as State Regent of Nebraska Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. She is one of 21 National Vice President Generals for the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. She was born after the original 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and she wanted to be a part of the party, and she wants that experience and to be able to share it. She is also interested in finding ways to involve public school, private school and even home schools, as well as programming that would help in educating in our American story.

**Ted Carter:** President of the University of Nebraska

**Christina Castro-Matukewicz:** Commission on Latino Americans

**Roy Christensen:** He is an Audiologist by profession and has served 8 years on the Lincoln City Council. His favorite memories in high school are related to the sesquicentennial celebration in decorating fire hydrants and dressing them up as revolutionary figures. He is looking forward to making some great memories for Nebraskans this time.

**Dan Curran:** Nebraska Department of Economic Development

**Jill Dolberg:** She has been with History Nebraska since 2000, mostly in SHPO conducting Section 106 reviews and historic building surveys. She is working recently with different parts of the agency to learn.

**Gwen Easter:** She is the Founder of the Safe Haven Community Center and Safe Haven Early Childhood Preschool Education Academy in North Omaha. She has had this Organization Ministry for over 27 years, which focuses on education, early-childhood education, and housing advocacy. She provides tutoring for dyslexic children. She is also appointed by Governor Ricketts to the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council and is one of the 14 African American Commissioners. She loves history and documentaries and wants to bring history to our communities.

**Tyeisha Kosmicki:** She is a real estate agent with Nebraska Realty. She ran in the primary in 2021 for Omaha City Council. She is a history buff and excited to see that we have a celebration coming up, and she is excited to share her love of history and country with her son. She plans to be an active participant in the process and plans to bring the celebration to fellow Nebraskans in celebrating our nation. She is a member of the Equal Opportunity Commission and is incrementally getting more involved in our state affairs.

**Ebony McKiver:** Nebraska Department of Education

**Deb Miner:** Daughters of the American Revolution

**Deb Nelson-Loseke:** She is from Columbus and she is a Commissioner for Nebraska Tourism. She has traveled around the state extensively. Locally, she is a private contractor and she coordinates two local future funds. She is also an Accountant for the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce.