



## Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

### Illinois Route 66 Centennial Commission Meeting January 10, 2022

Meeting called to order by Chair Cory Jobe at 1:02 p.m.

“Today is Monday January 10, 2022. We have assembled the platform for us to conduct today’s Commission meeting by WebEx in order to attend to matters and comply with Executive Orders. This meeting is being conducted remotely pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act which permits remote meetings when certain conditions are met. The Governor has issued a disaster declaration due to the circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic. I, as the Chairman of the Illinois Route 66 Centennial Commission, find that conducting an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the disaster, all members of the Illinois Route 66 Centennial Commission have verified that they can hear the discussion and testimony, members of the public are able to hear the meeting contemporaneously via the DCEO website, all votes will be conducted by roll call, notice of the meeting was posted prior to 48 hours before the meeting, and a verbatim record of the meeting is being recorded and will be available to the public.”

Members present: Chair Cory Jobe; Deputy Governor Andy Manar; Rep. Tim Butler; Mayor Steve Dougherty; Bonnie McDonald; Bob Navarro; Rep. Larry Walsh Jr.; Casey Claypool; Director Colleen Callahan; Kristin DiCenso, Director Karla Flannery; and David Joens

Others present: Aaron Stein, Kate Exo, Cameron Mock, Michael Lynch, Nestor Delgado, Jan Kemmerling

Approval of the Bylaws – Chair Jobe indicated that proposed bylaws were included with the agenda sent out and posted on the DCEO website. Bonnie McDonald indicated she had two possible changes/comments. Under Section B Regular meetings, the date should be changed to from January 10, 2021 to January 10, 2022. Under Section C, the 6<sup>th</sup> line should reflect the addition of the word “at”. Dave Joens indicated that the word Bylaws was not on the title of the document and should reflect that.

With those three changes reflected above, the members approved the Bylaws, none opposed.

Next item on the agenda was discussion on the proposed formal committee structure.

- Fundraising/grants
- Public relations
- Ceremonies and events
- Wayfinding
- Marketing/Advertising

Casey Wichmann indicated that with 90+ communities on the route, wayfinding is critical and needed in Illinois. Other states have done a good job with this and mentioned Oklahoma. She indicated that the Illinois route 66 Scenic Byway has secured [IllinoisRoute66Centennial.com](http://IllinoisRoute66Centennial.com) and [IllinoisRoute66Centennial.org](http://IllinoisRoute66Centennial.org).

Bonnie asked if programming would be included with ceremonies and events committee? Also inquired if DEI was included across the committees so that we make sure that the full history of the route is included.

Cory indicated we also want to make sure to include what the future of the route will look like – electric vehicles, etc.

Rep. Butler – preservation of the sites along the route and preservation of the road itself is very important

Karla also mentioned about the use of electric vehicles and how that will impact the future of the road and maybe have its own committee

Dave Joens felt it was important to have a liaison/coordination with what other states are doing

Cory indicated that there are 37 certified convention and visitor bureaus in Illinois and he represents the last 100 miles of the route, Springfield with its CVB and Bob Navarro represents the first 100 miles outside the City of Chicago. They work closely together to promote the road along with the Office of Tourism on both domestic and international trade efforts.

Mayor Dougherty asked about how projects would be prioritized as fundraising becomes available

Cory said he would like to see everyone signed up on at least one committee – those committee chairs can then move forward with meetings/projects.

The group indicated they wanted to see Illinois leading this effort across the country – with legacy projects to be proud of.

Committees should establish goals and objectives which will ladder up to the Commission.

Discussed ex officio members – is anyone missing that should be included? Casey indicated that The Road Ahead Partnership is a national group consisting of the 8 states that are working on celebrations and events that benefit all 8 states and will be raising money to disburse to each state for celebrations. Bill Thomas will be appointed to the federal commission. They have been working for a few years so he would be a very good addition as ex officio to this Commission. He is working on promoting one cohesive road versus every state doing its own thing and would be good to have that perspective.

It was mentioned about Route History and having someone from that organization also be appointed ex officio.

Casey indicated that the Byway has all the community contacts along the Byway and will be happy to assist in getting information out

Chair Jobe asked if ex officio members could be added without a change to the statutory language. It was decided that a legislative change would be needed to add members since the number and appointments are detailed in the Act. Bill drafting deadline is Friday if we want to try and get amended.

Bonnie asked about adding someone from the Illinois State Museum as ex officio as they are currently working on gathering Route 66 items and Kristin indicated they are under IDNR and she would be happy to ask them if the Commission wanted them included.

Chair Jobe indicated they wanted to set a quarterly meeting schedule for the remainder of CY 2022

Chair Jobe called for any Public Comments – and called for anyone joining today and no public member was in attendance.

Discussion was held on whether the chat function is considered part of the Open Meetings Act and it was indicated that you if you use the chat function, it should be to communicate with the entire group and not individual members, to meet the intent of the Open Meetings Act.

Rep. Butler indicated the Commission was created similar to the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in 2009. 2026 will be a tremendous year with US/Canada/Mexico World Cup and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US and how Route 66 played such an important role in our country's history. It will be a great opportunity to do great things for the state.

Mayor Dougherty asked about whether there would be funding from DCEO/IOT for projects along the route. Karla Flannery told them about the upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity for \$4 million for certified CVBs along the route for projects; and Aaron told them about other possible DCEO grant programs.

Andy Manar indicated that the Governor's Office hopes to grow higher profile improvements/additional investment in infrastructure improvements that are needed. Would look to the Commission to vet those projects and flag them so they can plan for funding. Mentioned again the opportunities with electric vehicles and that there are a lot of synergies with that. Also look at what needs cleaning up or investing in certain sections.

Chair Jobe indicated he looks forward to working with everyone on the Commission and asked for a motion to adjourn. Bob Navarro motioned to adjourn, and Mayor Dougherty seconded.