WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

THIRD PUBLIC MEETING: MARCH 27, 2019

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (Commission or WSCC), with Ms. Kay Coles James presiding as the Commission Chairman, convened their third public meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, by teleconference. The meeting was called to order at approximately at 1:00p.m. EST.

Paragraph ten of the WSCC Charter states that, "Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress and the President a report containing specific recommendations for commemorating the centennial."

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve a comprehensive list of Subcommittee ideas for programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment. The Commission also determined which of those ideas would be presented to Congress and the President as recommendations for commemorating the Centennial.

II. SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Key Decisions

-The Commission discussed and approved the following ideas to report to Congress and the President as recommendations for commemorating the Centennial:

Capitol City Commemorative Subcommittee:

- Announce the intention to create a U.S. Treasury Women's Suffrage Centennial medal, produced and sold by the United States Mint.
- Plan a series of events for the week leading up to August 26, 2020. This series may include symbolic events (such as the planting of a rose bush on Capitol grounds) in Washington, D.C. and in other key locations, such as Tennessee. The events will be planned utilizing the expertise of the WSCC's national events director to maximize impact, both in-person and digitally
- Consult with the Interior Department about the 4th of July celebration on the National Mall in 2020. Determine if the Washington Monument could be illuminated in gold to commemorate the women's suffrage centennial and whether the centennial could be incorporated otherwise into the celebration. Work with other entities, such as the United States Capitol, about similar lighting opportunities to highlight the centennial.

50 States Commemorative Subcommittee:

- Lighting of State Capitol buildings in gold for states' individual ratification date and for the week of August 26, 2020 (Monday, August 24—Friday, August 28). Additional building lightings to include of prominent buildings elsewhere in state, Empire State Building, Sears Tower
- State legislative joint resolution reiterating states' support of the 19th Amendment. Sample language from Wisconsin to be posted on WSCC website.

- Recognition of women leaders within suffrage movement. Identify key women leaders from each state for their respective state to specifically honor. (Outreach already done to "The Gazette" which has produced lists and bios for state leaders.)

-The Commission discussed and approved the remaining Subcommittee ideas for inclusion in the Commission's Workplan, and agreed that examples of items in the Workplan would be included in the report to demonstrate the comprehensive work of the Commission.

B. Action Items

- The commemoration recommendations will be reworded and circulated to the Commissioners prior to the submission of the report to Congress and the President.
- The official Commission website will be developed, launched, and presented to the Commission at the June 3rd meeting at the Department of the Interior.
-The Executive Director will draft a letter to the appropriate Senators and Representatives requesting a meeting to discuss their options for passing a joint or separate resolution on June 4th. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will sign the letter.
-The Executive Director will prepare a proposed list of events and activities for the Commission to commemorate June 4th.

III. PRESENTATIONS, KEY DISCUSSIONS AND COMMISSION VOTES

A. Executive Director Update – Rebecca Kleefisch

Mrs. Kleefisch shared that there are no meeting minutes to approve at this time because per the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Designated Federal Officers have 90 days to prepare and approve meeting minutes. The Commissioners will have the opportunity to review the February 27th and March 27th meeting minutes in advance of the June 3rd meeting and both meeting minutes will be discussed and approved at the June 3rd meeting.

This week has been especially successful since all the Commission staff were selected and are currently in the process of completing their onboarding paperwork. Anna Laymon will serve as the National Events Director, Kelsey Millay will serve as the States Events Director, Deanna Bass Williams and Dee Dee Bass Wilbon will support Public Relations and Communications, and Candace Samuels from GSA will serve as the Staff Director. Onboarding should be completed by the middle of April.

Anna Laymon, who is also the website developer, is working on the official Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (Commission) website. The fonts and colors that have been chosen by the web team and the communications team and are fresh and very different from what everyone has seen on the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial website that is often confused with this Commission, so we are differentiating ourselves. The website will be presented to the Commission at the upcoming June 3rd meeting at the Department of the Interior.

The White House (WH) is eager to work with the Commission, and Jovita has done much work in paving the way. The first WH event with WSCC will likely be spring 2020 with a potential "Suffrage Centennial Rose" ceremonial planting in the White House Rose Garden.

Mrs. Kleefisch is continuing to work with Bass Public Affairs. Their publisher and the GSA attorney are working to establish a relationship with the final goal of producing a commemorative magazine. Next week the Bass Public Affairs will meet with Anna Laymon and the communications team in

Washington D.C., and they will discuss preparing a weekly "E-Update" for stakeholders and constituents. They want to make sure that branding is consistent throughout.

Susan Combs and Mrs. Kleefisch both reached out to their Justice Bell contacts. Mrs. Kleefisch reminded the Commission about the history of the Justice Bell, which was previously shared in her Executive Director weekly update. The Justice Bell currently resides at the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge Park in Pennsylvania. To commemorate the suffrage centennial, the Justice Bell will be brought down and toured for three stops and will end up at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Mrs. Kleefisch suggested that the 50 States or Capitol City Commemorative Subcommittees might be interested in working with them further. The Justice Bell is privately owned so that makes facilitating an event around this easier.

Mrs. Kleefisch confirmed that Kroger will donate the yellow lapel roses for the Congress to commemorate a join resolution or separate resolutions. She is also working on the approval for the striking of a medal/coin, which already has interest and sponsorship in the United States Senate. An ornament is also being considered, and will be left up to the Commission for a final decision.

Discussion:
A Commissioner requested to know exactly what the Commission is doing on June 4th. Mrs. Keefisch responded that there are challenges with coordinating meetings with all the principals so that everyone is on board with a resolution or a join resolution. Rebecca has met with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and there is a draft resolution that has been circulated. She is currently trying to schedule meetings with Senators Schumer and McConnell and Representative McCarthy. Senator Mikulski (ret.) commented that we should consider preparing a memo or letter and asking the question if they want to do something together, and highlighting all of the good work that is already going on. She also suggested a conference call. The Chairman asked Rebecca to draft a letter to be signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

A Commissioner commented the Senate would be in session all day on June 4th. The House does not convene until later in the day on June 4th, and their vote is scheduled for later in the evening. It is likely they will need to do something separately. The Chairman requested that the Executive Director present to the Commission other commemoration suggestions for June 4th that are separate and apart from what Congress is doing and the Library of Congress Exhibit. The Library of Congress Exhibit opens on June 4th and all members of Congress and the Commission will be invited to attend a formal evening event. Senator Mikulski (ret.) proposed a red ribbon cutting at the Library of Congress the morning of June 4th, and the Commission should think about other events to make full use of that day. The Chairman reiterated that she would like the Executive Director to quickly get back to the Commission on what June 4th could potentially look like.

B. Discussion – Subcommittee Updates

The Chairman began this discussion with the reminder that the Commission's next report to Congress and the President should include recommendations. Each of the Subcommittees met and submitted a list of recommendations that were combined into one document and provided to the group as a meeting material. The Chairman noted that there were items on the list that should be part of a workplan and not a recommendation to Congress. The Chairman also suggested that the Commission include in the report examples of the items listed in the workplan so they can see the comprehensive work of the Commission. The Commissioners all agreed with

this approach. The Chairman proceeded to recap the list of recommendations and asked the Commissioners to confirm if each item should be a recommendation to the White House and Congress or part of a workplan. The Commission voted on and approved the list as follows:

Capitol City Commemorative Subcommittee

1) Present the majority and minority leaders of both houses of Congress with a list of potential activities to commemorate the legislative passage of the nineteenth amendment. This list will include two procedural options: a) commemoration on the same day in House and Senate (June 4, 2019) or b) following the historical record of each chamber's respective legislative action. **(WORKPLAN)**
2) Develop a list of upcoming events and conferences of organizations with a national reach (such as the NAACP, AAUW, the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, and the League of Women Voters) to determine how the WSCC can assist with commemorating the nineteenth amendment centennial. This may include inquiring about speaking opportunities for commissioners at relevant events in which information can be disseminated to large, interested audiences. **(WORKPLAN)**
3) Consult with the White House's Office of Public Liaison in the Executive Office of the President to confer about plans to commemorate the centennial. If no plans exist, the subcommittee will provide a list of options the White House can consider. This may include an event featuring the current First Lady of the United States and former First Ladies. **(WORKPLAN)**
4) Announce the intention to create a U.S. Treasury Women's Suffrage Centennial medal, produced and sold by the United States Mint. **(REWORD AS RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS)**
5) Investigate and consider partnerships with women's colleges; determine if programming has already been planned and how WSCC can partner or assist. **(WORKPAN)**
6) Draft a letter to the leadership of both national political parties (RNC and DNC) about the women's suffrage centennial and urge them to develop programming at their respective 2020 conventions to commemorate the anniversary. **(WORKPLAN)**
7) Plan a series of events for the week leading up to August 26, 2020. This series may include symbolic events (such as the planting of a rose bush on Capitol grounds) in Washington, D.C. and in other key locations, such as Tennessee. The events will be planned utilizing the expertise of the WSCC's national events director to maximize impact, both in-person and digitally. **(REWORD AS RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS)**
8) Consult with the Interior Department about the 4th of July celebration on the National Mall in 2020. Determine if the Washington Monument could be illuminated in gold to commemorate the women's suffrage centennial and whether the centennial could be incorporated otherwise into the celebration. Work with other entities, such as the United States Capitol, about similar lighting opportunities to highlight the centennial. **(REWORD AS RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS)**

50 States Commemorative Subcommittee

Every State Historical Society should be contacted to gauge what they are planning to do to celebrate—all activities compliant with the WSCC mission should be inventoried and added to WSCC calendar

1) Lighting of State Capitol buildings in gold for states' individual ratification date and for the week of August 26, 2020 (Monday, August 24—Friday, August 28). Additional building lightings to include of prominent buildings elsewhere in state, Empire State Building, Sears Tower. **(REWORD AS RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS)**
2) State legislative joint resolution reiterating states' support of the 19th Amendment. Sample language from Wisconsin to be posted on WSCC website. **(REWORD AS RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS)**

3) Recognition of women leaders within suffrage movement. Identify key women leaders from each state for their respective state to specifically honor. (Outreach already done to "The Gazette" which has produced lists and bios for state leaders.) **(REWORD AS RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS)**
4) State Capitol exhibits and lawn celebrations
    a. Encourage each state capitol to celebrate the centennial by displaying an exhibit about the 19th Amendment and their state's particular history.
    b. State Capitol should display their states ratification document (Coordinate with National Archives).
    c. On August 26, 2020, Capitol lawns can be used as an outdoor celebration venue for the Centennial. Suggested activities: performers and artists, Reenactments, Themed picnics, Film screenings.
    (WORKPLAN)
5) Gubernatorial Proclamations **(WORKPLAN)**

Partnership Subcommittee

1) Federal Partners: Identify partners such as Linda McMahon; Small Business Administration, Megan Brennan; Postmaster General, Betsy DeVos; Secretary of Education **(WORKPLAN)**
2) Private Partners: Trade Associations such as National Association of Realtors, National Bankers Association, Mortgage Bankers Association. Companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Colgate Palmolive, Coca Cola, Pepsi, etc. Financial Services companies, Nike, Under Armor, Lululemon, Mattel. Designers such as Donna Karan, Rebecca Minkoff. Non-governmental, nonpartisan organizations such as sororities **(WORKPLAN)**
3) Public Partners: State and County Offices, state First Spouses **(WORKPLAN)**
4) Use of WSCC logo with partners. **(WORKPLAN)**

Multi-Media, Education and Engagement Subcommittee

1) Assemble a list of experts or advisory committee for historical information that represents the diverse communities that participated in the suffrage movement. **(WORKPLAN)**
2) Oversee robust website as a portal into the Suffrage Centennial for the country. **(WORKPLAN)**
3) Downloadable curriculum on website from federal partners (Library of Congress, Smithsonian, National Archives, Parks Service. **(WORKPLAN)**
4) Pitch media on Suffrage Centennial publication(s) Fair Media, *Glamour, Cosmopolitan, More, Reader's Digest, People*, Airline Magazines, including those that covered the 19th Amendment 100 years ago: *The Atlantic, Time*, local newspapers, national publications. **(WORKPLAN)**
5) Pitch Daily and weekly morning shows on Suffrage Centennial stories **(WORKPLAN)**
6) Partner with studios and content providers to screen documentaries, TV shows and movies about the suffrage movement. **(WORKPLAN)**
7) Partner with mission-aligned organizations to disseminate information (biographies of famous suffragists?) Girl Scouts? (print bios on cookie boxes?) **(WORKPLAN)**
8) Develop participatory hashtag campaign and quizzes that can be extended across social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. **(WORKPLAN)**
9) App development contest (recalling that a federal app is in development; and amateur contest is a space that, to my knowledge, is not being used). **(WORKPLAN)**
10) Develop a podcast or Youtube channel that highlights points within WSCC mission scope. **(WORKPLAN)**

11) Develop national games or art, poetry and/or song writing contests that celebrate suffrage history. **(WORKPLAN)**
12) Provide resources /content for national travelling museum exhibit and or theater tour. **(WORKPLAN)**
13) Provide template for mock suffragist conventions in schools. **(WORKPLAN)**

The list of ideas will be re-drafted and the Workplan items will be separated from the recommendations. A new draft will be circulated to all the Commissioners.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Tate:
Nancy Tate with the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative congratulated the Commission for the work they have done so far.

V. WRAP UP/CLOSING

During the wrap up and final closing of the meeting, the Chairman restated that the list of Subcommittee ideas discussed during the meeting will be re-drafted, and the Workplan items will be separated from the recommendations. A new draft will be circulated to all the Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:39p.m. EST.

Interested States and organizations who would like to collaborate with the Commission in planning suffrage commemorative events may contact the Commission's Executive Director, Rebecca Kleefisch, at Rebecca@womensvote100.org

Interested parties with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the content of this meeting summary may contact the Designated Federal Officer's, Kim Oliver or Kelsey Brantley at kmoliver@blm.gov or (202) 912-7510 and Kelsey_brantley@ios.doi.gov or (202) 208-4122.

VI. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

A. COMMISSION MEMBERS

Kay Coles James (Chairman), President, The Heritage Foundation
Barbara Mikulski (Vice Chairman), Former U.S. Senator, State of Maryland
Cleta Mitchell, Partner and Political Law Attorney, Foley & Lardner, LLP
Debra Wall, Deputy Archivist of the U.S. Wall, National Archives
Jovita Carranza, Treasurer, Department of Treasury
Julissa Marenco, Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs, Smithsonian Institute
Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of Interior

B. STAFF SUPPORT

Kelsey Brantley, Designated Federal Officer, Department of Interior
Kim Oliver, Designated Federal Officer, Department of Interior
Margaret Triebsch, Committee Management Officer, Department of Interior
Rebecca Kleefisch, Executive Director, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

C. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Nancy Tate, 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative

APPENDIX A: MEETING MATERIALS