

## **Arizona America250 Commission**

Virtually via Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026**

#### **1. Call to Order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Fontes

##### **Commission Members Present:**

Honorable Adrian Fontes, Chair  
Anna Needham  
Ashley Harder

Jay McCall  
Paul Tighe

Sarah Webber

##### **Commission Members Absent:**

Chairman Verlon Jose, Vice-Chair  
Senator Vince Leach

Marcus Carney  
Neil Giuliano  
Representative Justin Wilmeth

#### **2. Approval of April 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

Chair Fontes noted that a quorum was not present at the start of the meeting, but a quorum was later established. Once quorum was present, Chair Fontes introduced the item for discussion and possible action on the April 6, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Needham moved to approve the April 6, 2026, meeting minutes as presented; Commissioner Paul Tighe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with all present voting “aye” and none opposed.

#### **3. 4th of July Activations**

The Commission discussed activities and partnerships planned around the 4th of July, including statewide and national America250 initiatives.

##### **a. Arizona America250 Toolkit**

The Agital PR team reported they are developing an Arizona America250 toolkit for cities and partners that will include Arizona America250 logos and supporting materials for local activations.

##### **b. America’s Potluck / America Gives Week of Service (July 5–11, 2026)**

The Commission discussed alignment with the national “America’s Potluck” and “America Gives” Week of Service, scheduled for July 5–11, 2026. Plans include promoting food drives and other service activities statewide, with an emphasis on coordinating volunteers and estimating participation for a coordinated packing date.

#### **4. PR & Media Update – Agital / Go Fish Digital**

Representative from Agital/Go Fish Digital presented a PR and media update, including:

- A snapshot of media coverage from January through April related to the Arizona America250 Traveling Museum and other Commission initiatives.
- Social media metrics, noting approximately 1,300 new followers and a 2.2% engagement rate, as well as top-performing posts.
- Partnership updates, including a Best Western giveaway and other collaborations in development.
- Summary statistics on print and paid media for the Traveling Museum, including radio placements on 24 different stations.

The presentation also outlined the current contract term ending in July and a proposed extended scope of work through December at a rate of \$9,945 monthly August through December.

##### **a. Post-July Extension of PR Contract**

Initially, discussion occurred when quorum was not present; no vote was taken at that time. After quorum was established, Secretary Fontes briefed the Commission on the proposed extension of Agital’s scope of work through the end of December.

Chair Fontes called for a motion to authorize the Executive Director to approve the extension of the Agital/Go Fish Digital contract through December under the presented scope of work and contingent upon agreed-upon contract termination terms. Upon a voice vote all present voted “aye” with no “no” votes; the motion passed.

#### **5. Road to 250: Arizona Traveling Museum**

##### **a. Content, Panels, and Distribution**

Executive Director Terech reported that the state library system (LAPR) will coordinate printing a set of Traveling Museum panels to be shared throughout the state library network, extending the life and reach of the exhibit.

Executive Director Terech recommended that the Commission allocate \$15,000 for printing and shipping of the panels. Chair Fontes moved approval of \$15,000 for panel production and

distribution; Commissioner Harder so moved, Commissioner Needham seconded, and the motion carried unanimously with all present voting “aye” and none opposed.

#### **b. Bell Rededication Ceremony**

Executive Director Terech reported that the America250 bell has returned to the Capitol and that staff are finalizing structural elements and planning a bell rededication ceremony, including a ribbon cutting, photo opportunities, and light refreshments. Details, including date and program, will be provided at a future meeting as staff coordinates with Sundt and other partners.

### **6. Additional Semiquincentennial Projects and Initiatives**

#### **a. Presentation from American Legion Boys State and Boys State Support**

Alfred Keyes from the American Legion Boys State program presented on Boys State, a week-long leadership and civics education experience, and reported they will host 250 delegates during the first week of June. He requested \$10,000 from the Commission to support food costs and rental fees, noting additional sponsorship levels are available. At the time of the presentation, quorum was not yet established, so no action was taken.

After quorum was established, the Commission returned to this item. Executive Director Terech recommended Commission funding support for Boys State and noted there is also a Girls State program the Commission may wish to consider in the future. Commissioners also indicated they would make personal contributions toward Boys State. In response to a question about sponsorships, Executive Director Terech recommended \$1,000 in Commission funds.

Commissioner Webber moved to allocate \$1,000 from the Commission to support American Legion Boys State; Commissioner McCall seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously, with all present voting “aye” and none opposed.

### **7. Commissioner Updates and Subcommittee Reports**

#### **a. Arts, Museums & Cultural Institutions**

Commissioner Needham reported that the subcommittee recently discussed a public art concept and how to continue Commission-related programming throughout the year.

#### **b. Civic Engagement, Education & Community Service**

Commissioner Tighe reported that approximately 40,000 postcards have been distributed for the postcard campaign, with additional batches continuing to go out. Staff are processing and sorting returned postcards, and a selection will be scanned and preserved through the Arizona Memory Project.

#### **c. Fundraising**

The Fundraising subcommittee chair was not present; no updates were provided.

**d. History, Heritage & Historic Preservation**

Commissioner Harder reported that the HHH and Travel & Tourism subcommittees held a combined meeting with approximately 15 people attending in person. She noted that the commemorative brew produced with Mother Road Brewery is performing strongly and is currently the second-highest selling beer for the brewery. Commissioner Harder also shared that the Arizona History Journal's America250 edition is now out and is available free online.

**e. Military & Veterans Affairs**

Chair Fontes noted there were no updates from the Military & Veterans Affairs subcommittee.

**f. Municipal Outreach & Tribal Affairs**

Staff and commissioners continue one-on-one outreach with municipalities and tribal partners; no additional report was provided.

**g. Travel & Tourism**

Updates were covered jointly with the HHH subcommittee report.

**8. Report from Executive Director**

**a. National Initiatives**

Executive Director Terech reported that staff continue to promote national America250 initiatives and highlighted upcoming opportunities for alignment. Executive Director Terech indicated that the next meeting will include discussion about sending her to the AASLH Conference in September as part of national networking and professional development for the Commission's work.

**b. Arizona Initiatives**

**i. MRA Traveling Museum Video**

Executive Director Terech shared a testimonial video from the tour company that has been supporting the Road to 250: Arizona Traveling Museum.

**ii. State Forty Eight Shirt Designs**

Executive Director Terech presented new State Forty Eight shirt designs featuring Arizona America250 branding. The shirts are planned to be offered as a presale from June 11 through July 11, with the Commission receiving \$5 per shirt sold and no cost to the Commission for production or fulfillment.

## **9. Call to the Public**

During a call to the public, Commissioner McCall asked whether Commissioners have name badges identifying them as Commissioners and inquired about certificates of appreciation for Commission service. He also asked whether any additional commemorative pins are available.

No members of the public requested to speak.

## **10. Adjournment**

Chair Fontes adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

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