

Arizona America250 Commission

In person and virtually via Zoom

Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2024

Call to Order

Arizona America250 Executive Director Laura Terech called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Roll Call of Members

Commission Members Present:

Adrian Fontes
Jay McCall
Paul Tighe
Anna Needham
Marcus Carney
Sarah Webber
Ashley Harder
Neil Giuliano

Commission Members Absent:

Verlon Jose
Senate Member (TBD)
House Member (TBD)

Introductions of members and staff

Commission Members and Staff offered introductions, including the position they were appointed to on the Commission and what they hope to accomplish.

Discussion and possible action: Election of Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION: Paul Tighe motioned that the Commission nominate Secretary Adrian Fontes as Chair. Sarah Webber seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION: Jay McCall motioned that the Commission nominate Jay McCall as Vice Chair. Paul Tighe seconded the motion. Ashley Harder motioned that the Commission nominate Verlon Jose as Vice Chair. Anna Needham seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 6-2, Verlon Jose was selected as Vice Chair.

Carney: Jose
Fontes: Jose
Giuliano: Jose
Harder: Jose
Jose: Not voting
McCall: McCall
Needham: Jose
Tighe: McCall
Webber: Jose

Overview of Commission's charge and responsibilities

Legislative Direction

Laura Terech presented an overview of SB1497 from the 55th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session.

Review of the rules and laws that govern open meetings within the State of Arizona

Deputy General Counsel Will Davis presented an overview of open meeting laws, quorum, and communication between members as a part of public record.

Discussion and possible action: Overview of agreement with national America250 organization and financing structure

Laura Terech and Will Davis presented the sublicense agreement with America250, including the \$10,000 allotment upon signing of the contract, receiving a website domain, the ability to use the America250 logo and approved uses, annual narrative and financial reports, and information from the national organization on opportunities for Arizona to participate in national A250 events.

Question from Mr. McCall regarding a Pima subcommittee. If a meeting of the subcommittee has more than 5 members, it wouldn't need to be public notice. Strong support in Tucson from Sons of the Revolution. Commission could adopt a simple policy regarding partnerships. Chair Fontes said in his view, the subcommittees would come back to the Commission for approval of events with things like reports. Question from Mr. Tighe as to whether open meeting laws apply to subcommittees. The Deputy General Counsel will investigate and report at the next meeting. Chair wants to be as efficient as possible given the short time frame. Mr. McCall has been doing activities in the Tucson area and sharing out information about the Commission and possible America250 activities. Deputy General Counsel shared additional information about the controlled use of the logo. Chair Fontes suggested that we put together a guide for subgroups and pre-approval of activities. Ms. Webber asked how many states have already adopted the agreement. Staff shared the answer

is a little more than half. The group discussed an option to delay. Deputy General Counsel shared the perspective that legal is comfortable moving forward with the agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Tighe motioned to approve the America250 sublicense agreement. Mr. McCall seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Question regarding fundraising. There is a fund within the library that is not a 501c3 but could serve as a landing spot for the funds. However, this fund would not be tax deductible. Chair Fontes asked staff to investigate funding options and report at the next meeting.

Overview of national America250 activities

Laura Terech presented an overview and timeline of national America250 activities, advisory councils, and subcommittee examples from other states.

National Programming: America's Field Trip, America's Invitation, Our American Story, America's Culture, America Gives, America Innovates, America Waves, Time Capsule, and July 4th 2026 Activations.

Advisory Councils: America's Culture, Civics, History & America's Future, American Innovation, America's Servicemembers, America's Youth, and America's International Partners.

Subcommittees: Examples from other states included Connecticut, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Murphy Hebert presented an update from the recent America250 convening of states.

State Reports: Each participant submitted a factsheet outlining their current activity.

Public Sentiment Review: Key takeaways include the need for balanced language and a variety of events with a focus on history, unity, reflection, accessibility, and safety.

Next Up: America250's National Convening of States and Partners in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 20-22, 2024.

Discussion and possible action: Potential event to honor the Arizona winners of the America's Field Trip competition.

Suggestions included highlighting on the Arizona America250 website in the future, a commendation from the Governor, inclusion in a press release regarding the Commission's activities, passes to Arizona parks, and public recognition from the State Board of Education. National has already sent out a press release to congratulate the winners. Ms. Harder suggested including Arizona landmarks for some of the sites for the

field trip winners. Chair Fontes instructed staff to investigate the process for inclusion. Commission members were asked to bring a list of three Arizona landmarks to the next meeting for discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Tighe motioned to ask the Governor to issue a commendation to the five Arizona winners of the first round of America's Field Trip. Ms. Webber seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. McCall distributed a list of actions that have already taken place and suggestions for events. Deputy Assistant Secretary Hebert shared a suggestion from the convening to reach out to groups who are already planning July 4th celebrations and ask them to co-brand with Arizona America250.

Discussion and possible action: Commission members discuss possible future Commission meeting schedule

Commission members decided to hold the next three meetings two weeks apart, then reassess.

Monday, August 5th: 1-3pm, same location

Monday, August 19th: 1-3pm, same location

September 3rd: 10-12pm, same location

Open discussion of possible future agenda items

The deadline for Commission members to suggest agenda items is the Friday before the meeting. In advance of the next meeting, Commission members will share with Executive Director Terech their interest in serving on subject matter subcommittees.

Call to the public

The commission set a two-minute time limit. No public comments were received, either online or in person.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm.