

**Arizona America250 Commission**

In person and virtually via Zoom

**Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2025**

**1. Call to order and roll call.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01am.

**Commission Members Present:**

Chairman Adrian Fontes	Vice Chair, Chairman Verlon Jose	Paul Tighe
Representative Justin Wilmeth	Ashley Harder	Anna Needham
Neil Giuliano	Sarah Webber	Marcus Carney

**Commission Members Absent:**

Senator Vince Leach                      Jay McCall

**2. Discussion and possible action on meeting minutes for June 2, 2025.**

**MOTION:** Adoption of minutes from June 2, 2025, as written. Marcus Carney moved; Anna Needham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Overview, discussion and possible action on either a final working group recommendation or the top three finalist proposals for contracting with a firm or firms for website, public relations, marketing, social media, and event support.**

The Executive Director shared the process of reaching out to firms on state contract, collecting bids, and scheduling presentations. Marcus Carney shared that the Commission might mix and match depending on the needs of the group, which will be communicated to potential firms. The next steps will include the need for a special meeting to consider discussion and possible action on hiring a vendor or vendors. The meeting will have one agenda item only and will take place at 8am on July 24, 2025.

**4. Commissioner update and possible action on subcommittee work.**

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

Commissioner Needham shared that the committee is working on how to highlight stories and arts from across Arizona, including via social media campaigns. The next step for Saguaros250 will be looking for a fabricator and pricing the sculptures.

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

Commissioner Tighe shared that activities and events continue to grow and membership in the subcommittee has been expanded. The Cardinals are interested in doing a civics education day at the stadium. The President's Volunteer Service Award has been discontinued. The subcommittee is working with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith & Family to potentially include Arizona America250 designations as part of the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards.

**c. Fundraising.**

Commissioner Giuliano shared that outreach is ongoing with donors ranging from \$50k to the high six figures. The goal is to have most of the major gifts solidified by the end of the summer. To facilitate the process, a fundraising committee has been created who will assist with outreach and networking.

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

Commissioner Harder has a draft interpretation document to share with the Commission. Dr. David Turpie from the Arizona Historical Society worked with others on the 3H committee to create and draft the document. It will be available for edits and additional input from historians and the Arizona America250 Commission. Sharlot Hall was awarded funding in the budget and will be doing a dedication. There is potential for the Commission to be involved.

**e. Military & Veterans Affairs.**

Operation Freedom March, the year-long relay along the Arizona Trail, was launched on July 4, 2025, for military members, Veterans, their families, and supporters to begin signing up. Chair Fontes would like to invite the Commission to join him for his section. ED Terech will reach out to Scouts and Girl Scouts to share information regarding potential outdoor excursions for Arizona's young people.

**f. Municipal Outreach & Tribal Affairs.**

No updates at this time.

**g. Travel & Tourism.**

There is progress on Birding250, which is launching with the Merlin bird app. Passport250 continues to prepare for launch. Commissioner Carney thanked the Arizona Office of Tourism for their support and partnership on the project.

## **5. Report from Executive Director.**

### **a. Passport250 update.**

The Executive Director shared the initial 25 sites, including the categories and the breakdown by county. ED Terech provided more information about the nomination form, which will be sent to Commissioners following the meeting.

### **b. Traveling Museum update.**

The ED shared that it is unlikely that the Commission will have access to a state fleet vehicle for the duration of the tour. The Request for Information process has been initiated with the State Procurement Office. More information about the vehicle should be available later this summer. Staff has developed a number of contingency plans for the Traveling Museum.

### **c. Fundraising support professional update.**

Five interviews were conducted with an expectation that hiring will be completed this week or next to assist with donors and fundraising.

## **6. Call to the public.**

Jim McPherson shared that there is a funding opportunity through the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund. He highlighted two historic preservation projects approved by the Legislature.

## **7. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41am .