

MINUTES
TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION
Bullock Texas State History Museum
1800 N. Congress, 4th Floor Boardroom
Austin, Texas 78701
July 18, 2024
11:00 AM
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

The Texas America250 Commission convened with the following designated Members of Commission Agencies: Margaret Koch, Presiding Chair, Bullock Texas State History Museum, Jelain Chubb, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Pat Hardy, State Board of Education, Tim Fennell, Director, Travel Texas, Economic Development and Tourism, Governor's Office and Rodney Franklin, Director of Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Item 1: Call to Order and Establishment of a Quorum

Margaret Koch, serving as the Commission's presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and called roll. A quorum was present with the five appointed commissioners in attendance.

Item 2: Introduction of Advisory Panel and Guests Present

Chair Koch welcomed all to the meeting of the Texas America250, and called on members of the advisory panel of state agencies and organizations to identify themselves. Advisors present were: Laura Casey, Texas Historical Commission, Emily Hermans, Texas Historical Commission, Kierstan Schwab, TX PBS, Nathan Jones, The Alamo Trust, Ali James, State Preservation Board, Rayanna Hoeft, Texas Historical Commission, Kelsi Tyler, Humanities Texas, Monte Monroe, Texas State Historian. Invited guests were: Lisa Berg, Texas State Historical Association, Steven McFarland, Harrison County, Texas, Rod Welsh, State Preservation Board, Mya Baker, iCivics, Wendy May-Dreyer, iCivics, Jan Miller, Texas Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar, and Kevin Hampton, National & Regional Program Coordinator, America250WI.

Item 3: Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from Meeting on June 13, 2024

Chair Koch called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Commission meeting held on June 13, 2024, as presented. Jelain Chubb so moved and Pat Hardy offered a second. The motion carried and the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Item 4: Receipt of Public Comment

The Chair called for anyone wishing to provide public comment on any matter pertaining to the Commission; no public comment registrations forms were received.

Item 5. Consideration of the Following Agenda Items:

5.1 Presentation by Kevin L. Hampton, National & Regional Program Coordinator, America250WI, regarding Wisconsin's efforts to establish a national Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative commemorating Parul Revere's historic ride and notice of upcoming U.S. Armed Forces anniversaries.

The Chair welcomed Kevin Hampton, National & Regional Program Coordinator, America250WI to share Wisconsin's initiatives for the Semiquincentennial. Two Lights for Tomorrow is a public lighting program inspired by historic events and *Paul Revere's Ride* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Initiative calls for two lights to be displayed in state houses across the country. Gathering state commissions to join the public lighting program on April 18, 2025 (Good Friday) ensures history is remembered by making it relevant, meaningful, and engaging to the public today. The following day, April 19, 2025 is being dedicated as a nation-wide Day of Service. Wisconsin is assembling a Two Lights for Tomorrow media toolkit with educational activities. There will be no lighting specifications; each state may choose how to scale event. Hampton hopes the initiative's message of unity will also shine a light on the 250th Birthday of the Armed Forces beginning June 2025. Virginia250 will host a map of all those participating on their VA250 website.

Illumination of the Texas State Capitol was discussed. Rod Welsh, State Preservation Board, confirmed any lighting of the Capitol building would not be possible due to established rules, however an event on the Capitol steps could be considered.

Jelain Chubb moved the Texas America250 Commission investigate possibility of Two Lights for Tomorrow events. Pat Hardy seconded and the motion carried.

5.2 Review, discussion, and possible action relating to the draft agreement with America250.ORG, Inc. regarding Texas America250's request for an additional section noting proposed joint ownership of oral histories provided by Texans and collected by America250 initiatives.

Chair Koch reported that the America250 and the Library of Congress confirmed that the oral histories collected through national America250 initiatives will be archived with Story Corp at the Library of Congress. This alleviated concerns by the Texas State Library and Archives for those stories being collected from Texas to have a permanent and accessible home archive and negated the need to have any additional language added to the license agreement.

Pat Hardy moved Texas America250 Commission signs the America250 State & Territory Partnership and Sublicense Agreement. Jelain Chubb seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

5.3 Updates and review of Texas Commission's task group's work on the Commission mission statement, vision, and goals.

Following review of drafted mission statement, vision, and goals, a decision was made to include engagement tracking and reporting as a goal to measure success of the Commission's efforts. The final version is attached to the minutes.

The chair proposed a motion to approve vision, mission, and goals of the Commission with the change suggested. Pat Hardy so moved. Rodney Franklin offered a second and the motion carried.

5.4 Update and discussion on outreach to Semiquincentennial Congressional Caucus, county commissioners and press regarding Texas America250

With accepted mission statement, vision, and goals, Jelain Chubb and Monte Monroe will proceed with drafting introduction letters and potential press release to the Commission for review for wide distribution throughout Texas. No action needed at this time.

5.5 Update on Texas America250 logo web landing page

Advisors suggested adding rotating images to webpage banner with a more patriotic feel. Additional images will be added as photos are submitted.

Chair Koch called for a motion to extend the meeting at 12:02 p.m. Jelain Chubb so moved, Pat Hardy seconded. Meeting continued.

5.6 Update on Texas submissions for Spring 2024 America's Field Trip

America250 agreed to share names of Texas student submissions for Commission recognition.

5.5 Report on Washington, D.C. Convening of States hosted by America250

Pat Hardy and Margaret Koch attended the Convening of States and Territories in Washington DC July 9-11. Hardy commented on the individuality of each state's planning efforts and common themes, and a willingness to share ideas and overall emphasis on unity and non-partisanship. Koch shared notice of Smithsonian's plan to turn all affiliates' focus on America250, including 12 institutions in Texas. National survey results from a nation-wide poll conducted suggest there is awareness of the anniversary and that the commonalities expressed by respondents suggest Americans are hopeful, proud, and optimistic about the 250th. Individual state reports confirmed each legislature has designated differing levels of support to each state commission; many are using funding to provide grants to local communities.

Commission will explore submitting a funding request to the Legislature.

Item 6: Adjournment

With no further business, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Pat Hardy made motion to adjourn the meeting, Jelain Chubb seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.