

MINUTES
TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION
Bullock Texas State History Museum
1800 N. Congress, 4th Floor Boardroom
Austin, Texas 78701
June 13, 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; regrets were received from 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.

Item 2: Introduction Staff, Guests, and Members Present

Chair Koch welcomed all to the meeting of the Texas America250, and called on specially invited guests from additional state agencies and organizations to introduce themselves. Present were: Laura Casey, Texas Historical Commission, Ellen Cone Busch, Texas Historical Commission, Lynn Forney Young, America250 representative from Texas, Emily Hermans, Texas Historical Commission, Ali James, State Preservation Board, Nathan Jones, The Alamo Trust, Monte Monroe, Texas State Historian, Kierstan Schwab, TX PBS, Rebeka Dobrasko, Texas Department of Transportation, Kelsi Tyler, Humanities Texas, and Jacqueline Walker, Secretary of State. Brittany Petrilli, Texas Association of Museums, and Rod Welsh, State Preservation Board, joined the call after introductions.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes from Meeting on May 9, 2024

Chair Koch called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Commission meeting held on May 9, 2024, as presented. Jelain Chubb so moved and Pat Hardy offered a second. The motion to approve minutes of previous meeting carried unanimously.

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 Update, discussion and possible action on the adoption of organizational procedures relating to the work of the Commission

Lindsey Aston, Governor's legal counsel sent edited organizational procedures document to Commission for review. Jelain Chubb moved adopting organizational procedures as received. Pat Hardy seconded. Motion carried. (Final version attached to Minutes)

5.2 Update, discussion, and possible action relating to the potential agreement with America250.ORG, Inc.

Entering into State & Territory Partnership and Sublicense Agreement would provide access to a ten thousand dollar grant and use of now copyrighted phrase America250. Chair Koch confirmed partnership agreement was reviewed by Governor's legal counsel and returned to the America250 Commission who replied with a few questions. Communication is ongoing. Lynn Young clarified America250 Commission has dissolved their separate Foundation and the Agreement would be directly with America250.ORG, Inc. No action needed at this time.

5.3 Updates on national America250 Initiatives

Exciting developments include:

A second America's Field Trip contest to begin in September during the 2024–25 school year. The Alamo Trust submitted a school specific, behind the scenes field trip proposal.

Walmart sponsorship. Walmart will sponsor America250 initiatives focused on public service. They will also kick off a national oral history project in Summer 2025 "to capture America at this important milestone for future generations to learn and build upon." A portion of Walmart's funding will support local efforts, potentially State & Territory Commissions. Pat Hardy questioned availability of training opportunities for teachers involved in oral history projects. Monte Monroe continued conversation on oral history projects by asking where projects would be archived. Jelain Chubb suggested incorporating policy in agreement with America250 for Texas to retain copies of projects submitted by the State. Texas Digital Archive would house collection of Texas Semiquincentennial materials.

Commissioners Pat Hardy and Margaret Koch are scheduled to attend the Washington D.C. America250 Convening July 9–11, 2024 on behalf of the Texas Commission. They will report updates in July meeting.

Lynn Young reported on America250 Congressional Caucus. America250 is the largest Congressional Caucus with 160 members. Lynn urges contacting Texas Senators to join. Young also reported on a presentation from the State of Alabama and their initiatives. A PowerPoint Slideshow was sent sharing their vision, mission, and guiding principles. Margaret Koch proposed tasking a group to draft vision, mission, and goals for Texas America250 Commission to review in August meeting. Jelain Chubb, Monte Monroe, Lynn Young, and Kierstan Schwab volunteered for the task group.

Chair Koch continued sharing updates on America250 Initiatives. Many state governors have drafted resolutions requiring state agencies to participate in commemorating America's 250th.

Commission might consider reaching out to Governor Abbott's office for similar resolution to encourage all agencies, committees or boards, and communities to join celebrations.

Jelain Chubb brought news from National Historical Publications & Records Commission. A \$5,000 grant application was submitted to the NHPRC for work relating to America250 initiatives in Texas.

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

Margaret Koch proposed appointing one or more individuals to draft an letter introducing Texas Commission to Congressional Caucus. Jelain Chubb and Monte Monroe will return drafted letters to Commission for review by July 4, 2024. Historic Sites of THC has offered to facilitate distributing letters to County Historical Commissions. Texas America250 Commission will reach out to Governor's office for official press release to be sent in the coming months.

5.5 Update on development of Texas America250 logo and web landing page

Web landing page is progressing. Finalized vision, mission, and goals will be added to page. Updates to logo were well received, and the Texas America250 logo is tentatively approved pending final decision on agreement with America250.org, Inc. for use of terminology, America250.

Item 6: Adjournment

Commission members Pat Hardy and Margaret Koch will be in D.C. during the next scheduled meeting date. Consensus was to reschedule Texas America250 Commission Meeting for third Thursday of the month July 18, 2024. With no further business, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Jelain Chubb made motion to adjourn the meeting, Pay Hardy seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.