

Minutes of the Montana 250th Commission Introductory Virtual Meeting, December 5, 2023, 9 to 11 A.M.

Attending Commissioners: Marietta Croft, Jane Hamman, Linda Reksten, Molly Kruckenberg, Shannon O'Brien, Molly Stockdale, Deena Mansour, Chris Averill, Mike Jetty, Hal Stearns and Emily Arendt

Staff: Martha Kohl, Laura Marsh

Guests: Dylan Klapmeier

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Staff/Guest Introductions: Laura Marsh, Community Engagement Specialist, MTHS, Martha Kohl, Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Policy Advisor and liaison to commission and historical society

Commission Members:

- Marrietta Croft, 2023 James Madison Fellow, Colstrip teacher
- Molly Stockdale, ED of Traveler's Rest Connection, nonprofit connected with park
- Linda Reksten, Representative House District 12 Polson, carried the bill, looking forward to showcasing MT and helping students learn more about state
- Deena Mansour, Director of the Mansfield Center, support issues of ethics and public affairs, vibrant civics education program
- Jane Hamman, public member, active in volunteer work, worked before retirement in the governor's office under five governors, particularly interested in early American history and civics education
- Senator Shannon O'Brien, former history teacher, education policy advisor and carried the bill on the Senate side
- Mike Jetty, member of Spirit Lake Dakota nation and Anishanabe descendant, works at OPI on IEFA, used to teach history and government
- Chris Averill, public member, grew up in Boston, history degree, went into government
- Hal Stearns, public member, former member of Montana Historical Society board, former history teacher
- Emily Arendt, chair of MSU Billings history department, expert on revolution and early American republic

II. INFORMATIONAL OVERVIEW

A. Molly Kruckenberg reviewed the enacting legislation ([HB0377](#))

Question arose over supporting the publication of a children's book produced by British publishing house who has been working with other states. Decision to ask him to present at the next meeting.

B. Molly Kruckenberg reviewed draft bylaws (attached), which will be discussed, modified, and adopted at the January meeting. Bylaws attached (modified to include a Programming Committee per the suggestion of Chris Averill).

C. Laura Marsh reported on nationwide 250 initiatives. See attached PDF of her PowerPoint.

D. Laura Marsh provided information on America 250. See attached PDF of her PowerPoint.

III. AMERICA 250 AFFILIATION

Motion to sign agreement to affiliate with America 250 made by Shannon O'Brien, seconded by Emily Arendt and passed unanimously.

IV. JANUARY 11 MEETING/LOGISTICS

- A. Meeting will be held in the capitol. It may need to be longer than three hours.
- B. Request for agenda items by December 18. Several agenda items were proposed at this meeting, including:
 - Finalizing and adopting bylaws
 - Electing officers
 - Establishing committees
 - Presentation by Chris Lloyd on the books he's created for other states
 - Discussion of potential funders
 - Deciding on themes, brainstorming ideas, sharing visions and prioritizing actions
 - Inviting public stakeholders, including schools and school and teacher organizations (e.g., SAM, MFPE) and other organizations representing the stakeholders the statute lists (e.g., veterans organizations) to give public testimony (get them onboard early)
 - Guest speakers on relevant topics at meetings (Montana history, tribal history, colonial history, national experts zoom in to educate ourselves)
- C. Background Information will be sent out before next meeting. (See PowerPoint PDF)
- D. Reviewed travel reimbursement procedures.
- E. Discussed website: We will list brief bios but create a general email address instead of listing specific emails.

IV COMMENTS

From Commission Members:

Deena Mansour requested more information about mandates for civic education. The Board of Public Ed in [rule requires 1/2 a unit of civics for graduation](#) and [HB 377](#) (the Montana 250 authorizing legislation) outlines some items that are to be encouraged in schools.

Jane Hamman shared some of her ideas for activities the Commission could undertake. Decision was made to discuss these at a later meeting. Hammond also invited people to watch the December 16 reenactment of Boston Tea Party.

Public Comment: Dylan Klapmeier thanked the Montana Historical Society staff for their work.

Motion to adjourn by Linda Reksten, seconded by Shannon O'Brien.

NEXT MEETING:

January 11, 2024, 1 to 4 P.M. (Time subject to change to reflect the need for a longer meeting.)
Montana State Capitol, 1301 E. 6th, Helena
Room 152