

## **America 250<sup>th</sup> SD Commission Minutes**

October 30th, 2024

### **Call to Order:**

A meeting of the South Dakota America's 250th Commission was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chairman Benjamin F. Jones via Microsoft TEAMS. A quorum was present.

### **Commissioners present via TEAMS Conference call:**

Benjamin Jones, Peggy Besch, Caleb Finck, David Flute, Catherine Forsch, David Grabitske, Kurt Hackemer, Doug Knust, Marshall Michels, Shane Penfield, Sen. Tim Reed, George Seamon, Rep. Tyler Tordsen, and Greg Whitlock

### **Commissioners Absent:**

James Hagen, Kevin Robling, Julie Breu

### **Others Present:**

Kevin Larsen (SDSHS), Jayden Bies (Governor's Office), Nick Harrington (SD GF&P), Brian Gebhart (Lawrence & Schiller), Gabby Sudenga (Lawrence & Schiller) and SDPB

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Forsch made a motion to adopt the agenda. Finck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1)**

None.

### **New Business:**

- Brian Gebhart from Lawrence and Schiller shared with the commissioners a draft of an America's 250th community guidebook. He also presented a couple high-resolution versions of the America's 250th SD logo.
  
- Dr. Ben Jones discussed the intention on having a strong presence and a booth at the Annual Tourism Conference in Pierre January 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He encouraged commissioners to make plans on working at the America 250 booth during the conference.
  
- Dr. Ben Jones and Catherine Forsch discussed with the commissioners and updated list of partnerships and encouraged other members to continue seeking additional partnerships.
  
- The 250<sup>th</sup> logo will be showcased in the 2025 South Dakota Tourism Vacation Guide.
  
- Commissioner Committee Updates:
  - Commissioner Knust will be working with the South Dakota Retailers Association and South Dakota Auto Dealers Association on partnership opportunities.
  - Commissioner Grabitske updated the commissioners on the status of a possible time capsule as part of the America 250 celebration.
  
- Nick Harrington updated the commissioners on the status of the Walk 250 miles by 2026 program. Currently, there are over 470 participants and over 1,600 miles have been walked so far as part of the program.
  
- Commissioner Hackemer updated the commissioners on the status of a roundtable discussion on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Farber Hall on the University of South Dakota Campus. The event will feature four panelists on the topic of Native American citizenship since the passage of the Snyder Act 100 years ago.
  
- Hackemer made a motion to pay a stipend of up to \$2000.00 to help defray the cost of two panelists for the November 13<sup>th</sup> event at USD. Seamon seconded the motion. The motion carried with Hackemer abstaining.
  
- Commissioner Seamon updated the commissioners up the status of the Read 250 program. He stated the framework is underway and they will be ready to launch the program on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025.

### **Administrative Housekeeping:**

- Next Meeting: Jones discussed moving the next meeting, scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>, to

January 22<sup>nd</sup> during the tourism conference. The location of the meeting will be in the Jay Vogt Education room at the Cultural Heritage Center.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting ended at 3:41 pm.

I, Benjamin F. Jones, chairman of the South Dakota America 250 commission, declare that these minutes are true, and an accurate reflection of the business conducted at the February 7, 2024, meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

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Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.  
State Historian and Director  
South Dakota State Historical Society

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Kevin Larsen  
Information Officer  
South Dakota State Historical Society