



## **Executive Commission Minutes**

August 7, 2024

### **Call to Order:**

A meeting of the South Dakota America 250 Executive Commission was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chairman Benjamin F. Jones in the Hale conference room at the Arrowwood Cedar Shores Resort. A quorum was present.

### **Commissioners present:**

George Seamon, Doug Knust, Greg Whitlock, Julie Breu, Catherine Forsch, Nick Harrington, David Grabitske, and Ben Jones

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

David Flute, Kurt Hackemer, Marshall Michels, Shane Penfield, and Tyler Tordsen

### **Commissioners Absent:**

Peggy Besch, Caleb Finck, James Hagen, Connie Hohn, and Tim Reed

### **Others Present:**

Jamie Hageman (SDSHS), Kevin Larsen (SDSHS), Kyndra Hosek, Tarya Reidt, Sarah Hitchcock and SDPB

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Knust made a motion to adopt the agenda. Harrington seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Forsch made a motion to approve the minutes from June 5, 2024. Whitlock seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1)** There were none.

**Community Guide Discussion:**

Prior to the meeting a Draft Community Guide was posted online for commissioners to review. A Discussion was held regarding edits and comments. The guide will continue to be drafted and sent to the Department of Education's designer.

**Committee Organization:**

- **Potential New committee with K-12 Involvement-** The Board of Education Standards is interested in how they will participate. Dr. Jones proposed a new committee with a K-12 focus providing classroom activities with America 250 focus and guidance. More details to follow at the next commission meeting.
- **Committee Meetings-** Forsch and Knust provided an update regarding a recent partnership committee meeting. Other committees are encouraged to begin meetings.

**Partner Meetings:**

A discussion was held to host a partner meeting with our current listed partners for updates on their planned events and ideas.

**Determining South Dakota's Contribution to the National Time Capsule:**

A discussion was held regarding the state's contribution to the national time capsule installed Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Further guidance from the national level is anticipated. The commission agreed to set a criterion for the item to be placed in time capsule. Grabitske, Breu and Harrington volunteered to create a set of formal criteria on behalf of the commission.

**Updates:**

- **Partnerships**
- **Website-** The new America 250 SD website went live on July 4, 2024. The website was displayed during the call.
- **Federal Convening in Washington D.C.-** Jones provided a detailed summary of the national convening attended by himself and Finck in Washington D.C. A total of 49 States and 2 territories attended the convening. In addition to America's Invitation and America's Field Trip, America 250 announced four addition initiatives.
- **Walk 250 Miles by 2026-** Harrington provided a brief update on the Walk 250 by 2026 program.
- **Read 250 by 2026-** Seamon provided an update about the State Library's Read 250 by 2026 program. The program is anticipated to start in January 2025.
- **USD event on 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Snyder Act –** Hackemer provided an updated on the planning for the Snyder Act in collaboration with USD.

**Adjournment:**

The next meeting is set for October 2, 2024, at 3:00 pm CST. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Forsch and seconded by Whitlock. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:14pm.

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 August 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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Jamie Hageman  
Administrative Assistant  
South Dakota State Historical Society

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