



**America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission Annual Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2023 | Hybrid Meeting: History Colorado Center/Virtual**

Christian Anschutz (Commissioner)
Jason Hanson (Commissioner)
Dr. Stephanie Hartman (Commissioner)
Jen Gilbert-Kaufmann (Commissioner)
**Hon. Judge Gary M. Jackson
(Commissioner)**
Ramona Martinez (Commissioner)
Milo Marquez (Commissioner)

Danielle Oliveto (Commissioner, virtual)
Nathan Richie (Commissioner; virtual)
Jay Seaton (Commissioner, virtual)
Linda Yip (Commissioner)
**Jill Shenkel Henwood (Executive
Director, Nathan Yip Foundation)**
Katie Roach (Program Director)
Ellen Roberts (Advisory Panel member)

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m.

Dr. Hartman read the land acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that the land currently known as Colorado has been the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We are grateful to work in partnership with the 48 sovereign nations who continue to call this land home.

Hon. Judge Jackson moved to approve the 10/25/23 meeting minutes. Mr. Anschutz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Report From the Director:

Ms. Roach shared information regarding requests for proposals for vendors, which are in process. She informed Commissioners that she and the Finance Subcommittee will draft a Commission policy on spending and reimbursement. This policy will safeguard the budget from unexpected expenses and allow for future planning.

Ms. Martinez encouraged Commissioners to identify the ways in which they can individually contribute to the financial success of this effort by making fundraising asks and encouraging donations. Mr. Anschutz suggested that prior to hiring a contract fundraising team the Commission first approach local foundations. Ms. Gilbert-Kaufmann agreed, and offered to provide further insight in approaching local foundations prior to the end of calendar year 2023. Ms. Roach will follow up with her. Further, Ms. Roach will follow up with members of the

Finance Subcommittee to strategize on how best to incorporate fundraising efforts with Commissioner-sought donations.

Election of Officers:

Dr. Hartman opened the discussion by acknowledging that, when she and Ms. Martinez accepted the Co-Chair roles, the Commission was identifying a path forward. She stated that the Commission now has clear direction and goals, and she thanked Commissioners on behalf of Ms. Martinez and herself for the opportunity to serve as Co-Chair. Dr. Hartman then asked if anyone was interested in serving as Co-Chair in 2024. Discussion followed regarding Co-Chair duties. Hon. Judge Jackson inquired whether the current Co-Chairs were interested in remaining in their positions, and if so, made a motion to re-elect Dr. Hartman and Ms. Martinez. Mr. Marquez seconded the motion. Mr. Richie stated that the Commission owed the current Co-Chairs a debt of gratitude, but felt that due to the short nature of the Commission there should be opportunities for others to serve in a leadership role. Mr. Hanson asked if there were other Commissioners interested in serving as Co-Chair. No other Commissioners expressed their interest, and the motion was brought forward again. Commissioners voted unanimously to reinstate Dr. Hartman and Ms. Martinez as Co-Chairs. Commissioners also deemed that no other officers were necessary at this time.

Proclamations for Cities and Organizations:

Ms. Roach asked Commissioners to consider the drafted proclamations for certified local governments and other organizations. She explained that the intent of these is to allow for local communities and community organizations to declare their intent to participate with the sesquicentennial efforts. Ms. Roach asked Ms. Oliveto if these conflicted with plans for 2026 Governor-issued proclamations, and Ms. Oliveto confirmed that there was no conflict. Ms. Roach further explained that these would be available on the 250-150 website, and that we would ask for adopted proclamations to be communicated with the Commission. Commissioners asked Ms. Roach to add that cities and organizations would identify an organizational liaison for regional efforts. Hon. Judge Jackson moved to adopt the proclamations, Dr. Hartman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dissolution of Subcommittees:

Mr. Hanson moved to dissolve the following subcommittees: Bylaws Subcommittee, Statement of Diversity Subcommittee, Education Subcommittee, and the Vendor Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Yip seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gilbert-Kaufmann clarified that the Commission should have a subcommittee dealing with philanthropy, and Mr. Hanson suggested that that be incorporated into the Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Gilbert-Kaufmann and Mr. Anschutz joined the subcommittee.

Colorado Heritage for All (CHA):

In preparation to discuss subcommittee work for signature initiatives, the Commission heard a presentation on CHA by Dawn DiPrince and Annie Levinsky, History Colorado's President/CEO and Chief of Staff. CHA was recently endorsed by the Commission as a signature initiative.

Ms. DiPrince shared details on CHA goals and programming. CHA aims to add 150 BIPOC historic sites to the State Historic Register by 2026 (currently less than 4% of sites are representative of Colorado's diverse communities). Discussion included how to achieve this goal inclusive of details on developing workforce, inclusive outreach, and funding opportunities. Ms. DiPrince stated that this work is urgent and essential, and that the sites CHA is dedicated to saving are often the sites most in danger. Because sites on the State Historic Register can benefit from state tax credits, CHA will provide a more equitable approach to accessing these credits as well. The CHA slide deck is linked [here](#).

Creation of New Subcommittees:

Commissioners joined two new subcommittees, detailed as follows:

- **Creating Memorable Public Experiences**
 - Mr. Montfort (recommended by other Commissioners in his absence)
 - Ms. Anschutz
 - Ms. Oliveto
 - Ms. Gilbert-Kaufmann
 - Ms. Yip
 - Mr. Marquez will assist when necessary

- **Commemorating our Shared History**
 - Mr. Hanson
 - Dr. Hartman
 - Hon. Judge Jackson
 - Mr. Anschutz
 - Ms. Martinez
 - Mr. Marquez
 - Ms. Yip

Public Comment

The Commission heard from Talia Siens, who serves on the board for the Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and is participating in the Colorado Tourism Leadership Journey program. She is very interested in updating Colorado's roadside markers and historic signage and would like to assist in that programming. Ms. Roach will connect her with Commissioners who begin work on that

signature initiative.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.