

MINUTES
TEXAS AMERICA250 COMMISSION
Bullock Texas State History Museum
1800 N. Congress, 4th Floor Boardroom
Austin, Texas 78701
April 10, 2025
11:00 AM
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

The Texas America250 Commission convened with the following designated Members of Commission Agencies in attendance: Margaret Koch, Presiding Chair, Bullock Texas State History Museum, Rodney Franklin, Director of Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Pat Hardy, State Board of Education, Lynn Young, America250 Representative, and Tim Fennel, Director, Travel Texas Economic Development and Tourism, Governor's Office. Jelain Chubb, State Archivist & Director, Texas State Library and Archives Commission was excused.

I. Call to Order and Establishment of a Quorum, Introductions

Margaret Koch, serving as the Commission's presiding chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and called roll. A quorum was established.

Chair Koch called on the Advisory Panel to introduce themselves. Advisors present: Emily Hermans, Texas Historical Commission; Gary Pinkerton, Alliance for Texas History; Kierstan Schwab, Texas PBS; Monte Monroe, State Historian; Nathan Jones, The Alamo Trust; Christina McKinney, Governor's Commission for Women; David Preziosi, Texas Historical Association; Lisa Berg, Texas State Historical Association; James Harkins, General Land Office; Ali James, State Preservation Board; Nancy Foster, Museum of Western Art; Jeff Salmon, Frontier Texas; Nancy Davis, Texas Daughters of the American Revolution (Texas DAR) America250 Committee; and new advisors, Dr. Krystle Matthews, Texas Veteran's Commission and Michael Abels, Texas Maritime Museum.

Additional attendees included: Steven McFarland, Harrison County Texas America250; Rowena Dasch, Neill-Cochran House Museum, and Romel Nicholas.

II. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Chair Koch called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Commission meeting held on March 13, 2025, as presented. Pat Hardy so moved and Lynn Young offered a second. The motion carried and the minutes of the previous meetings were adopted.

III. Presentation on the National Flag Foundation “Light to Unite” Initiative – Romel Nicholas, National Flag Foundation

Romel Nicholas, Chairman, National Flag Foundation (NFF) presented the organization’s [Light to Unite](#) national initiative.

The NFF’s mission is to educate concerning the United States Flag and to honor those who serve to protect it. To celebrate the 250th, the NFF created "LIGHT TO UNITE" asking all cities in America to light up red, white, and blue the evening of July 4, 2026. The two-part initiative encourages all households to fly or display an American flag on the same day as a show of national unity.

The Light to Unite initiative will be posted on the Texas America250 website to increase visibility. Pat Hardy expressed intent to encourage participation in Fort Worth. Rowena Dasch offered connecting Mr. Nicholas with the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America who may be interested in supporting the initiative.

IV. Consideration of the Following Agenda Items:

Item 1. Report on Subcommittee Task Groups

As part of our efforts to effectively execute the Commission’s five key goals, sub-committees have been established. Formed from our advisory panel, each committee will have the flexibility to determine its meeting schedule, identify necessary tasks to meet goals, and develop methods to measure success. Chair Koch will share task group assignments prior to the next Commission meeting and has asked the subcommittees to have their first meeting by the end of May.

Item 2. Request to Commissioners and Advisors to publicize America’s Field Trip Contest for 3rd-12th grades

Chair Koch encouraged commissioners and advisors to publicize America’s Field Trip, a contest where students have the opportunity to win field trips to historic landmarks by submitting projects that share their perspectives on what America means to them. This year’s contest closes April 16. Texas is represented with a trip option to The Alamo and LBJ Presidential Library. Texas students who submit projects will receive a thank you letter from the Texas America250 Commission and may receive commemorative keychains as a token of appreciation.

Item 3. Report on Outreach to Legislative Offices

Commemorative TXAM250 pins and introductory letters are being delivered to legislators and being sent to America250 Congressional Caucus. A purchase order has been submitted for #3D-printed logo keychains. The commemorative logos will be available for Commission presenters to distribute to their audiences. Commissioners Young will share a list of Congressional members not yet signed on to the Caucus, encouraging outreach to representatives. With support from Representatives Lowe, Swanson, and Senator Bob Hall, House Concurrent Resolution 123 has been introduced, honoring 250th anniversary of the adoption of Declaration of Independence.

Item 4. Report on Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative

A number of individuals and organizations across Texas are participating in Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorating Paul Revere's ride. Harrison County will participate in Two Lights for Tomorrow with a reenactment, live music, and lighting event on April 18th. The Bullock Texas State History Museum will participate by shining two lanterns in honor of this initiative over Easter Weekend.

Advisor, Emily Hermans, THC, recommended registering local events with Made by US's Civic Season, which creates a national calendar of events happening between Juneteenth and July 4.

Jeff Salmon shared news from Frontier Texas. In Abilene, the museum is hosting an exhibition in spring-summer 2026 "Defining Texas: Historic Maps of Texas" working with the General Land Office collections. Educational materials will be made available. Monte Monroe suggested connecting Jeff to the Texas Map Society for private collections.

Chair Koch shared the reminder that the American Revolution Traveling Experience exhibition is available through Texas DAR, and Advisor Nancy Davis will put anyone interested in touch with their local chapters.

A call of quarterly newsletter content and event submissions for the website calendar are welcomed and encouraged. Send to ContactTXAM250.com

V. Public Comment

Texas residents Lauren Day and Nancy Palo provided public comment expressing their interest in volunteering to support the Commission in achieving its goals. Their willingness to contribute was noted and appreciated.

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting is currently scheduled for May 8, 2025 at 11am.

With no further business, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Pat Hardy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rodney Franklin seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.