

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by Council**  
**America250 in Idaho Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday, December 18, 2024**  
**2:30 P.M.**  
**WW17**  
**Boise, Idaho**

Members in attendance: Representative Mitchell; Senator Adams; Julie Ellsworth, Treasurer; Phil McGrane, Secretary of State (via teleconference); Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho Historical Society; Jeff Newgard, President/CEO, Bank of Idaho. Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff: Peter Cook, Terri Kondeff, and Jennifer Kish.

NOTE: Presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted to the Idaho Legislature's website and copies of those items are on file at the Legislative Services Office in the State Capitol. Recordings of the meeting may be available under the committee's listing on the website.

Rep. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and announced there would be an election of cochairs. **Treasurer Ellsworth moved that Rep. Mitchell and Sen. Adams be cochairs of the council. Secretary of State McGrane seconded the motion. The motion stood by a unanimous voice vote.**

At 2:33 p.m., Peter Cook, LSO drafting attorney, provided an overview of how the committee began through [HCR 31](#) (2024)(copies provided to the council). He spoke to funding of \$1.6 million appropriated last session to the Idaho Historical Society for events associated with America250. He noted that Ms. Gallimore would expound on reports and findings, as well as the creation of a task force.

At 2:37 p.m., Janet Gillimore, Executive Director, Idaho Historical Society, said she would respond to requests made as to what was in the report. She began with the background of the commemoration at the national level and referred to page one in the [Report to the America250 Advisory Council](#) that she provided to the council. Some of the initiatives she mentioned were America's culture, innovation, "America Waves" in reference to flying the flag, and America's field trip. She noted that ideas were conceived back to 2022, with guidance from the Office of the Governor. She added that the governor established a task force and that last session there was discussion on what the vision should be. She further discussed the legacy projects, and when the budget was presented, stressed the importance of knowing exactly where the funds would be used and briefly discussed the allocations. She expanded on projects underway, and in addition to the contents discussed in the report, she said supplementary information could be found on the Idaho Historical Society website.

- Treasurer Ellsworth, noting the involvement at the national level, asked whether Congressmen Risch and Simpson were included. Ms. Gallimore replied that they were in the caucus. Treasurer Ellsworth asked who applied when the grants were launched. Ms. Gallimore responded that the application process had been extended and that all legislators were informed. She further noted the amounts of marketing and communication involved. Treasurer Ellsworth asked which specific legislators had participated and requested that they might be part of the council. Ms. Gallimore explained that she talked with legislators before the budget was approved and said there were approximately 20 legislators who had participated. She offered to provide a list at a later date, as well as the notes from the listening sessions.
- Rep. Mitchell asked when the email was sent out to the legislators and noted that he did not recall seeing it. Ms. Gallimore said she would provide the information after researching the exact date.
- Sen. Adams recalled that in the fall of 2023 the legislature wanted to have a lot of input of how the \$1.6 million was utilized. He then mirrored Rep. Mitchell's inquiry. Ms. Gallimore expounded on the specific package that was delivered to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC)

and clarified that it was all discussed at JFAC. Sen. Adams pointed out a budget request summary, noting the asks, and asked about civic engagement. Ms. Gallimore said the Boise State initiative is primarily about civic engagement at the college and high school levels.

- Rep. Mitchell commented that he received a call from someone in his local historical society who stated that her ideas were not being heard. He asked Ms. Gallimore whether there was "something set up" to where ideas could be shared for public transparency. Ms. Gallimore explained the intent of having four town halls set up so people can talk together, but it had not launched yet. In addition, she emphasized that the Idaho Historical Society website contained tools and resources for sharing.
- Treasurer Ellsworth asked whether there was room to amend the mission statement and incorporate legislators input. Ms. Gallimore replied they could incorporate any partnership but stated that she worked closely with Rep. Pickett to make sure the language was married with the governor's proclamation.
- Rep. Mitchell asked Ms. Gallimore who she was looking at for stakeholders. Ms. Gallimore referred to the task force members all having boards appointed by the governor, and she felt they could be ambassadors that are already part of the state system, which is why they are part of the stakeholder group. She mentioned including city officials who will be doing the parades and such, but there was not a formal network started yet. Rep. Mitchell commented that the people of Idaho are the biggest stakeholders. He noted future topics to be discussed to include stakeholders, oversight and guidance, and spending money wisely. He welcomed comments from council members.
- Sen. Adams noted the responsibility of allocating the funds and efficient communication.
- Treasurer Ellsworth said oversight and guidance can be facilitated with regular meetings and agenda items. She proposed to tentatively set the date of January 17, 2025, for a future meeting. **She motioned to create a subcommittee with Secretary of State McGrane and Treasurer Ellsworth and report back to the committee about liaison matters, therefore coming up with more outreach. The motion stood unanimously.**
- Rep. Mitchell asked about a website. Treasurer Ellsworth suggested that LSO could be of assistance and she would lead the project. She further mentioned a "live suggestion box" that LSO might be able to set up for communication between members. Rep. Mitchell stressed the importance of paying attention to comments.

With no further business, the council adjourned at 3:08 PM.