

MINUTES
Approved by Council
America250 in Idaho Advisory Council
Monday, January 27, 2025
3:30 P.M.
Room WW53
Boise, Idaho

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

Others in attendance: Isaac Castellano, BSU Institute for Advancing American Values; and Jane Perlaky, The Agency Creative.

NOTE: Presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted to the Idaho Legislature's website <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2024/interim> 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

Opening Remarks / Approval of Jan. 17 minutes

Cochair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A silent roll call was taken. Cochair Mitchell called for action on the minutes of the January 17 meeting. **Secretary McGrane made a motion to approve the minutes; Senator Guthrie seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.**

America250 in Curriculum: Higher Ed / K-12

Cochair Mitchell called **Dr. Andrew Finstuen**, Boise State University (BSU) Professor for Institute for Advancing American Values, to the podium for his remarks to the council regarding curriculum related to the *America250* initiative at the higher education level. Dr. Finstuen reported that the Symposium on Civics and History in question had been held since 2001, and that *America250* funds received were planned to assist educators to attend the conference and were not intended to fund any of the guest speakers. He explained how the curriculum focused on four main ideas: reading the republic (online class to focus on works of founding members), civics for all (nuts and bolts of the legislative process), Idaho history elements (reading signature Idaho documents), and finally, collaborating with IPTV on existing and in-progress historical documentaries.

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Idaho Dept. of Education, provided her remarks to the council regarding curriculum related to the *America250* initiative at the K-12 level. Ms. Critchfield reported on ideas that the department planned to engage students in the celebration. She shared that there will be a monthly theme for the 2025-2026 school year for students to create projects and presentations. Additionally, the department is collaborating with IPTV for 4th-grade Idaho history and 5th-grade US history curriculum. Ms. Critchfield expected the planning would be complete before the end of this school year in order to have everything in place for the beginning of the 2025-2026 year.

Task Force Groundwork/Summary

Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS), provided a summary of the groundwork the Task Force has completed over the past couple of years that lead up to the advisory council.

- Secretary McGrane inquired how the council and the task force could best meld ideas. Ms. Gallimore commented that work sessions that included members of both groups should be planned. Secretary McGrane hoped that earlier events would inspire other events in the progression towards the larger July 2026 celebration. Treasurer Ellsworth commented that aligning efforts under the earlier presented Three Pillars should make the planning easier. Senator Guthrie emphasized the need to meet time lines but even more important was to establish a leader to organize the events.

Account Transfer Options

Julie Ellsworth, State Treasurer, reported on the options available for an account to hold the identified \$200,000 for use under the "1st Pillar": 1) to open an independent bank account, which she advised against, or 2) to create a miscellaneous account in either the state treasurer or the secretary of state's office, where the spending authority would need to be approved by the Legislature. Additionally, there was an option for funds raised by the community to be received by the ISHS's 501(c)3 foundation and then those monies could be moved to a sub-account within the miscellaneous account; this could be arranged with the an MOU between the ISHS and the authority of the miscellaneous account holder. Treasurer Ellsworth agreed to work on an MOU with Director Gallimore to that effort. **Treasurer Ellsworth made a motion to authorize legislation as needed for the council to create a miscellaneous account for the council to hold funds for *America250* in Idaho projects; Senator Adams seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Project Manager

Secretary McGrane supported the idea of hiring an outside entity to facilitate communication and coordination of projects among the task force, advisory council, and outside groups. He suggested budgeting funds in the amount of ~\$7,500/month, to be adjusted as needed, from the remaining \$200,000 to be directed towards the hiring of a project manager. No names of possible third-party entities were identified at this time.

- Treasurer Ellsworth inquired who would manage/sign such a contract. Secretary McGrane noted that whoever had control of the miscellaneous account should probably be that person.
- Cochair Mitchell commented that the contract should be in place before the authorization of funds to be distributed would be decided.
- Senator Guthrie noted that the proclamation identified ISHS to be the lead on projects and he suggested that the project manager should work closely with ISHS.
- Secretary McGrane recognized that maybe ISHS should manage the contract but cautioned that the contract manager should be aware of all parties' participation.

Grants Review

Sen. Adams suggested taking another week to review the proposed grants to ensure they were aligned with the intention of the funding.

Start Date and End for Celebration

Cochair Mitchell asked Director Gallimore about any plans that ISHS might have to consider kick-off dates. Director Gallimore reported that ISHS was in collaboration with 37 other states in planning the *Two Lights for Tomorrow* celebration that will commemorate the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's famous ride. The dates of April 18-19, 2025, will be slated to celebrate the occasion by having two lights displayed in community buildings on Friday the 18th; and then Saturday the 19th would be a day of community service. Director Gallimore commented that these dates could be

the official kick-off event or simply a signature event that raises awareness for the July 4, 2026, celebration. Treasurer Ellsworth suggested using this year's Idaho Day (March 4) to publicize the *Two Lights for Tomorrow* and the *America250* celebrations. Director Gallimore added that the American Revolutionary Experience exhibit, scheduled to be in Boise April 3-15, 2025, would be an opportunity to promote the *America250* celebration along with legislative members. Cochair Mitchell noted that the Legislature ideally has concluded its business before April. Cochair Mitchell proposed that the selection of a kick-off date be held until a project manager was selected.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.