



**American Revolution 250 Commission Meeting Minutes  
Virginia Museum of History and Culture  
January 14, 2022  
10:00 am**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Christy Coleman (Interim Chair), Jamie Bosket (Interim Vice Chair), Steven Adkins, Ed Baine, Peter Broadbent\*, Gretchen Bulova, Tyler Carroll\*, Ben Dendy, David Duncan\*, Cliff Fleet\*, Peter Hedlund, Sue Gerdelman\*, Kathy Jordan (for Sandy Treadway), Jerri Marr\*, Dan Roberts, Gary Sandling, Jackie Stone, Scott Stroh, Karin Wulf\* (\*Attended virtually)

**Staff in Attendance:** Cheryl Wilson (Executive Director)

### **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Coleman, Interim Chair, provided a call to order and called the roll. A quorum was physically present.

A motion was made by Ms. Stone to approve the minutes for the meeting held November 19, 2021. The motion was seconded by Chief Adkins and agreed to unanimously.

### **Legislative and Budget Amendment Update**

Mr. Dendy provided an update on legislation before the 2022 Session of the General Assembly

### **Introduction and Discussion with Cheryl Wilson, VA250 Director**

Ms. Coleman introduced Cheryl Wilson, the new Executive Director of the Virginia 250 Commission. Ms. Wilson thanked members for their trust and support and outlined initial goals, including meeting with Board members and key partners, putting a staffing plan in place, mapping out a direction for Commission initiatives, and developing a plan for implementation. Ms. Wilson invited members to contact her at any time at [cheryl.wilson@jyf.virginia.gov](mailto:cheryl.wilson@jyf.virginia.gov) or (804) 205-0788.

### **Update on Legislative Funding Initiative**

Ms. Coleman reminded members that the total request for state funding is \$15 million, representing full funding for the commemoration through FY27. However, the Governor's budget, as introduced, includes only \$1.5 million the first year (FY23) and \$2 million in the



second year (FY24). Senators Hanger and Howell and Delegate Plum have filed budget amendments requesting the full funding, which is vital to planning and staffing.

Mr. Dendy inquired about the process for carrying forward funds if the full \$15 million is allocated. Ms. Coleman and Ms. Wilson indicated that the unexpended balance would be rolled forward each year.

### **Update to Amend Commission Membership**

Mr. Dendy advised that SB 22 (Locke) and HB 6 (Ware) have been filed in the 2022 Session of the General Assembly, which would add four legislators to the Commission, bringing the total membership to 26. The legislation calls for two members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker, and two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

Both bills have been referred to the respective Rules committees. Mr. Dendy will follow their progress and report back. Lobbyists from the Virginia State Bar have also volunteered to advocate for the bill.

### **Report on US250 Activities**

Mr. Bosket reported that Joe Daniels has been hired as CEO of America 250. The national organization is currently in a process of strategic planning, which will last through July 2022, and will begin finalizing concepts for national events and programming initiatives for 2025 and 2026. They are seeking input from states, including ideas for funding and programming.

Mr. Bosket noted that the Commission should make official notice to the federal commission of Ms. Wilson's arrival, and that there would be a state convening on February 8.

Mr. Baine asked if funding was available from the federal commission. Mr. Bosket said that it has been implied but there are no specifics as of yet.

### **Update on Affiliated Initiatives**

Mr. Stroh reported on the Southern Campaign, a regional collaboration with America 250 that consists of representatives from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Much discussion currently focuses on the desire for a linked multi-state trail that would highlight sites associated with the Revolutionary War. Mr. Stroh mentioned that Drew Gruber, head of the Civil War Trails program, is working on a plan to expand the Road to Revolution trails in Virginia.



It was noted that for 2019, the Library of Virginia had undertaken an inventory of historic sites related to the Revolutionary War. Ms. Jordan volunteered to locate the inventory and share it with the commission.

Mr. Stroh also reported on the Historic Quad, which consists of members from Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, National Park Service, William and Mary, Fort Monroe, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. The group has met four times and has developed a robust plan for a five-year conference series. Dr. Wulf noted that there has been positive feedback on the concepts that Virginia is developing for a capacious 250<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Coleman noted that funding for VA250 has been moved to Agency 400 for expenditures and tracking purposes.

Ms. Bosket announced that the Virginia Museum of History and Culture has developed the “Commonwealth History Fund,” which will offer grants for history projects across the Commonwealth. The goal is to award \$2 million in the first five years, through grants of \$100,000 or more. The grant fund is intended to support partners and sites, with particular focus on amplifying underserved stories.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Dendy to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baine and agreed to unanimously.