



## Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250)

### Executive Committee

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Virtual

### Draft Minutes

#### Members, Invited Participants, and Guests in Attendance

The Honorable Terry L. Austin, Chair, *Virginia House of Delegates*

Chief Stephen R. Adkins, *Chickahominy Indian Tribe*

Jamie O. Bosket, *Virginia Museum of History and Culture*

Christy S. Coleman, *Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation*

H. Benson Dendy III, *Chairman Emeritus, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation*

The Honorable Aimee R. Guidera, *Secretary of Education*

Scott M. Stroh III, *Gunston Hall*

Carly Fiorina, *VA250 National Honorary Chair*

Jeanne Zeidler, *Virginia Commemorations Inc.*

Prashanth Adel, *Maguire Woods Consulting*

Frank Sadler, *Chief of Staff to Carly Fiorina*

David Cary, *VMFA*

#### VA250 Staff

Cheryl Wilson, *Executive Director*

Elizabeth Mancano, *Deputy Director*

Katherine Dabney, *Engagement and Development Associate*

Patrick Daughtry, *Director of Major Gifts*

Mike Frontiero, *Chief Communications Officer*

Kate Egner Gruber, *Director of Engagement, Public Programming, and Interpretation*

Lindsey McDade, *Fiscal Technician*

Susan Nolan, *Director of Institutional Giving*

Brian Shaw, *Chief Development Strategist*

Korin Taddei, *Executive Assistant*

#### Call to Order and Roll Call

*The Honorable Terry L. Austin, Chair*

Del. Austin called the virtual meeting to order at 9:30 am. He welcomed and thanked everyone for their involvement and contributions to the success of the Commission. Del. Austin recognized the success of the recent Common Cause to All conference in March and thanked everyone for their participation.

Del. Austin asked Cheryl Wilson to call roll. A quorum was present.

#### Chair's Remarks

Del. Austin gave remarks on the support the Commission has for Cheryl Wilson and her staff and the great work they are doing to raise money, get the message out, and work around the state planning events and support events that partners are hosting.

## Advisory Council Reports

### **Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council**

*Chair: Stephen R. Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe*

Chief Adkins emphasized the importance of commemorations in filling the void in curriculum, especially textbooks, and give us an opportunity to get the story right. It is more than an aspirational goal, it is a responsibility to provide history for those who want to hear. He thanked the leadership of all partner organizations and Carly for stepping up and giving so generously of their time and support.

Chief Adkins gave a summary of the Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council membership, meetings, and key discussions. A web page on the VA250 site has been created to catalog the Council's work. The next meeting will be May 3 at 10 am at Colonial Williamsburg.

### **African American Advisory Council**

*Chair: Senator Mamie E. Locke*

Sen. Locke was unable to join the meeting, so Cheryl Wilson gave a brief overview of the activities of the African American Advisory Council. The 25-member council is made up of thought leaders representing organizations across Virginia.

Ms. Wilson shared that at their last meeting, the African American Advisory Council recommended hosting the July 4, 2025, signature events at Fort Monroe, highlighting the many layers of history at that significant site. Mount Vernon is unable to host an event July 4, 2025, as renovations will be underway.

Discussions have been engaging, thoughtful, and productive with a focus on making the commemoration meaningful and representative of all Virginians. Members have offered input on July 4th celebrations, exhibits, historical moments and places that should be highlighted during the commemoration. Plans include cultural, artistic, and musical acts, raising awareness through media outreach and education, and involving educators and grassroots organizations.

The Council has established a webpage listing all Advisory Council members and links to meeting agendas and notes on the VA250 website. The next meeting will be held virtually on May 21, 2024, at 10 am.

## **Staff Report**

*Cheryl Wilson*

Cheryl Wilson gave an update on VA250 legislation that has passed the 2024 Session of the General Assembly.

**HB 839 / SB 117:** American Revolution 250 Commission; membership and staffing. Amends the membership of the American Revolution 250 Commission to allow for the appointment of ex officio members who are directors of historic homes, historic sites, or National Park Service sites or former legislative members of the Commission. The bill also provides for staff of the Commission to serve as the Commission's fiscal agent.

**HB 840 / SB 216:** Special license plates; 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Authorizes the issuance of revenue-sharing special license plates marking the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The bill provides that the prepaid application requirements for special license plates shall not apply to such plates, that the provisions of the bill expire on July 1, 2032, that such plates shall not be newly issued on or after such date, and that such plates may continue in use for a period of time determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**HJR 84:** Encouraging public institutions of higher education in Virginia to display the VA250 logo on all men's and women's athletic uniforms for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Ms. Wilson then gave an overview of the budget summary and clarified that this is an evolving budget estimate based on many uncertainties, including the state's final budget appropriation, private fundraising efforts, and the scope and scale of events and programs.

Discussion on oversight for the planning, budgeting, and fiscal management included the role of the Commission members and when and where information would be shared and could be found. Del. Austin emphasized that he and Sen. Locke wanted and welcomed transparency and input from the full commission and that as plans developed, there will be more concrete information to share.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 am.