

MD TWO FIFTY

Maryland Two Fifty Commission

Minutes/ April 16, 2024, at 1:00pm

Treasury Building, Assembly Room, 80 Calvert St., Annapolis

Attendance

- Commissioners: Chair Gov. Parris Glendening, Vice Chair Catherine (Katie) Curran O'Malley, Dir. Elaine Rice Bachmann, Robert Bailey, Katie Caljean, Alexandra Cenatus, Brenda B. Coakley, Dir. E. Keith Colston, Raquel Coombs, Judi Emmel, Dr. Joni Floyd, Terri Lee Freeman, Dir. Elizabeth Hughes, Mayor Takisha James, Exec. Dir. Chanel C. Johnson, Steve Kearney, Sec. Susan Lee, Councilman Pete Lesher, Assistant Sec. Luis Luna, Sec. D. Paul Monteiro, Peter Phineas Ramsey, Nicholas Redding, Exec. Dir. Steven Skerritt-Davis, Robin Sproul, Reggie Turner, Dr. Antonio Ugues Jr., Exec. Dir. Rev. Lawrence E. Walker Sr., Sec. Anthony Woods
- Staff: Assistant Administrator Erin Bode, Director Michele W. Johnson
- Guests: Mary Blair, Doria Fleischer, Jennifer Harris, Burt Kummerow, Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Andrew Libraty, Deputy Sec. of State Michael Lore, Michael McGeady, Nan Nawrocki, Chris Rowsom, Lena Morreale Scott

Governor/Chair Glendening opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and welcomed the Commissioners and guests. Vice Chair Judge O'Malley read the Land Acknowledgement. Comptroller Lierman, the meeting host, welcomed the Commission and expressed interest in the 250th, followed by Commissioner and guest introductions.

Administrative matters and votes followed.

- Motion by Dir. Colston to approve minutes of December 4, 2023 meeting, seconded by Dir. Bachmann, all in favor, no votes opposed.
- Gov. Glendening noted that since the December 4, 2023 meeting, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the 2023 Commission annual report and plan.
- Dir. Johnson presented the Director's report on activities since the December meeting and gave a budget update.

The working group and committee chairs presented recommendations.

Civics Working Group recommendations were presented by Working Group Chair Dr. Ugues:

- #1: The Working Group recommends that the Commission apply for membership in the MD Civic Education Coalition.
- #2: The Working Group recommends that the Commission encourage and promote the creation of local citizen academies in counties and towns throughout

Maryland, to inform and engage residents. It is also recommended that the Commission offer \$500 grants to support the launch of such academies.

- #3: The Working Group recommends that the Commission partner with the Governor's Office and other partners on MDTwoFifty regional festivals.

History Working Group recommendations were presented by Working Group Chair Caljean:

- #4: The Working Group recommends that the Commission accept and endorse the Maryland Mosaic Project and promote the many statewide entries that show Maryland is a "Small State with a BIG History".
- #5: The Working Group recommends that the Commission endorse and use the Guidelines and Guidance for MDTwoFifty Programming.
- #6: The Working Group recommends that the Commission endorse and use a form for organizations to apply for a program, project, or event to be officially recognized by the Commission.
- #7: The Working Group recommends that the MDTwoFifty Commission launch the MDTwoFifty Inclusive History Grant Program.

Service Working Group recommendations were presented by Working Group Chair Sec. Monteiro:

- #8: The Working Group recommends that the Commission participate in the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Military in 2025, in partnership with the Governor's Office, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland Military Department, the U.S. Naval Academy, Fort McHenry, Fort Detrick, Fort Meade, veterans service organizations, and other partners TBD.
- #9: The Working Group recommends that the Commission launch the MDTwoFifty Fellows program starting with a paid Inclusive History Internship program for undergraduate and graduate students.

Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committee recommendations were presented by Committee Chair Sproul:

- #10: The Committee recommends that the Commission ask Governor Moore to direct state grant funders to prioritize funding 250th projects, when appropriate.
- #11: The Committee recommends that the Commission partner, when possible, on events commemorating anniversaries of historical significance.
- #12: The Committee recommends that the Commission seek in-kind or paid support, when needed, for fundraising, public relations, graphic design, video production, podcast production, event management, etc.
- #13: The Committee recommends that the Commission retain the services of a fiscal sponsor to receive and distribute private funds raised.
- #14: The Committee recommends that the Commission partner with a vendor to produce and sell approved MDTwoFifty merchandise, with a percentage of funds returned to the Commission.

- #15: The Committee recommends that the Commission be invited to a facilitated retreat, with the goals of crystallizing a mission statement and messaging, and developing specific goals and plans for event planning, communications, and targeted fundraising.

Chair Gov. Glendening called for discussion and a vote on all fifteen recommendations and offered an option of discussing and voting one by one on the recommendations. The Commission agreed to take one vote on the entire package of recommendations, which were all previously vetted and approved by the working groups and committee. Motion to approve all fifteen recommendations by Terri Lee Freeman, seconded by Exec. Dir. Larry Walker, all in favor, no votes opposed.

Chair Gov. Glendening opened the public comment period.

- Michael McGeady, Board Chair of Sail Baltimore, spoke of a partnership with the Commission on their signature Sail Baltimore 250th event in 2026.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Gov. Glendening at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele W. Johnson

Director, Maryland Two Fifty Commission