

MD TWO FIFTY

MD Two Fifty Commission

Minutes/November 12, 2024

Maryland Judicial Center, Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis

Attendance

- Commissioners: Chair Gov. Parris Glendening, Sen. Jack Bailey, Dir. Elizabeth Hughes, Dr. Tony Ugues, Dr. Tony Campbell, Larry Walker, Michael Lore, Denise Noee (Secretary Anthony Woods), Pete Leshner, Kristin Fleckenstein, CHanel Compton Johnson, Elaine Rice Bachmann, Kimberly Shiloh (Senator Benjamin Brooks), Brenda Coakley, Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, Judi Emmel, Robert Bailey, Mayor Takisha James, Joni Floyd, Katie Caljean, Steve Kearney, Robin Sproul, Geri Byrd
- Staff: Dir. Michele Johnson, Assistant Administrator Erin Bode, Outreach Specialist Travis Clatterbuck, Outreach Specialist Rinnari Smail
- Guests: Lydia Williams, Burt Kummerow & Mary Blair, Karma O'Neill, Cindy Orbor

Chair Glendening opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and welcomed Commissioners and guests. Commissioner Kearney read the Land Acknowledgement statement, after which there were introductions of Commissioners, members of the public, and staff.

Dr. Tony Campbell of the Maryland Military Department spoke briefly about the Veteran's Day ceremony in Dorchester County honoring Harriet Tubmann, and commissioning her as a one-star General in the Army.

Alderwoman Karma O'Neill spoke on behalf of the Annapolis 250 Commission. An October 19th, 2024, launch event commemorated the Burning of the Peggy Stewart and the Annapolis Tea Party. The Commission is exploring a passport program, for launch in 2025. They are interested in partnering with the Maryland Two Fifty Commission.

Administrative matters followed.

- Vote: Approval of minutes from August 28, 2024. Motion to approve (, seconded, all in favor, no opposed.
- Vote: Approval of draft annual report/work plan and designation of executive committee to take a vote once the report is finalized. Motion to approve (Commissioner Sproul) Second Kristen Fleckenstein. All in favor. No opposed. Motion is carried.
- Director Johnson gave an update on what staff has been working on since the last Commission meeting, including events attended, America250 and events hosted.

Working group and committee chairs presented updates.

Civics Working Group, Chair Dr. Ugues

- Dr. Ugues shared that MD Two Fifty is now a member of the Maryland Civic Association and invited Commissioners to attend meetings as well. Initial conversations have taken place about Maryland Regional Festivals and Citizen Academy Grants launched.
- Vote: Recommendation to approve 4 Citizen Academy grants. Motion to approve made by Pete Lescher. Takisha James abstained due to her town submitting an application. All in favor. No opposed. Grants are approved.

History Working Group, Chair Katie Caljean

- Katie Caljean shared that the Inclusive History Grant program has launched and a virtual informational session occurred. She encouraged Commissioners to share with their networks. She tells stakeholders that they can find guidelines and a place to apply to become official MD Two Fifty events.
- A Mosaic update was given by Burt Kummerow and Mary Blair.

Service Working Group, Director Michele Johnson

- Due to Sec. Monteiro's absence, Dir. Johnson provided an update of the working group. She detailed the two initiatives that this working group is focusing on.
- Partnerships and opportunities to participate in the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the U.S. military. She urged Commissioners to think about how Maryland will commemorate this.
- She also introduced the MD Two Fifty Fellows grant program. 9 applications were received and 8 were submitted to the working group for approval. The working group approved all of these 8.
- Vote: Recommendation to approve 8 MD Two Fifty Fellows grants. Motion made by Elaine Bachmann. Elizabeth Hughes left the room as MHT submitted a grant application. Kristin Fleckenstein abstained from voting on the MHT grant application. All in favor. No opposed.

Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committee, Co-chairs Robin Sproul and Steve Kearney

- Steve Kearney updated that the Maryland Two Fifty Commission is close to closing on podcast agreement. Michele and Robin Sproul met with Tallships in order to figure out how we can work together. Reggie Turner has a proposal to partner with 6 minor league baseball teams.
- Michele Johnson gave updates on minor league baseball partnerships and asked for interest in exploring this additionally.
- Vote: Recommendation for minor league baseball partnership. Motion to approve made by Joni Second by Brenda. All in favor. No opposed. Motion approved.
- America 250 partnership opportunities

Commissioner updates

- Joni Floyd gave an update on the 1856 Project. She led the initiative to hold the conference in MD in 2026. She urged that the theme of the Conference be examining America at 250. (Sept 2026 conference will be held)
- Elaine Rice Bachmann commended the MD military for making Harriet Tubmann as a one star general, history as reparative. Four semi finalists for the Black Patriot Monument.
- Chanel Compton Johnson shared that the Banneker-Douglass-Tubmann held their name changing ceremony. They are launching a strategic plan to reshape and reimagine Maryland history to focus on Black women's role in shaping American history and future.

Chair Gov. Glendening opened the public comment period.

- Cindy Orban of Talbot County recommended the book 'Kin Rooted in Hope', by Carole Boston Weatherford, a Marylander and illustrated by her son, Jeffery Boston Weatherford.
- Lydia Williams of Talbot County invited Commissioners to visit the Water's Edge Museum in Oxford.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Glendening at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele W. Johnson
Director, MD Two Fifty Commission