Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023
9:00-10:30 am
[Meeting was held virtually]

AGENDA

● Call to Order
  ○ Chair Fitch called the meeting to order at 9:01 am

● Roll Call / Attendance
  ○ Lindsey Dyer conducted attendance:
    ■ 12/13 voting SERC members present (not present: President Robert ‘Deuce’ Larsen)
    ■ 3/4 ex officio SERC members present (not present: Senator Mary Kunesh)

● Adoption of Agenda
  ○ Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mazone; seconded by Whitworth
  ○ No discussion; agenda was approved

● Updates from Chair/Vice Chair
  ○ Chair Fitch congratulated the Commission on launching the public submission process and form 1 month after convening the first meeting
  ○ Thanks were given to Fish & Richardson for their pro bono assistance with the submission guidelines and language
  ○ MNHS shared an update that ex officio (non-voting) SERC members have speaking privileges, but not voting privileges. Without certainty on their ability to make motions, it would be best for ex officio members to not make motions.

● Public input/submissions launch
  ○ Update on launch
    ■ MNHS shared that the public submission form was launched on 10/2/23; over 50 submissions have come in since launch (less than 24 hours ago)
  ○ Review PR and media actions
    ■ Allison Ortiz (MNHS) shared an overview of the PR plan for the launch
      ● MNHS communications team launched via GlobeNewswire and 2,000 media contacts throughout the state; it will be a 2-day effort
      ● Commission members requested access to the media list so they may ensure various communities and rural locations were represented
      ● Commission members requested access to the press release so they have language to share with their contacts
    ■ The Secretary of State sent an announcement; the announcement will reach superintendent newsletters, libraries, educational institutions and will expect good traction across the state
Chair Fitch expressed a desire to have the submission guidelines translated into other languages to increase access and accessibility.

Discussion of past flag contest submittals to current

- Commission members discussed the logistics around submitting flag designs from past contests (1957, 1983, 1998/Star Tribune, 2002) that may/may not be property of the State.
- It was agreed that any past flag designs would need to be resubmitted so that the artist/designer may sign off on the new submission rules and qualifiers.
- Aaron Wittnebel offered to look further into past flag designs and facilitate whether/not they constitute being resubmitted.
- There was concern about past submissions being relevant in 2023.

Finalist selection process

- Discuss timeline for posting flag designs
  - The Commission discussed when to reveal the flag submissions to the public, and to the Commission.
    - Chair Fitch shared that in design contests, it is standard practice to keep designs closed until the deadline as to protect the original designs of the creator; Vice Chair Gaul supported this practice.
    - Commission members expressed an interest in having all of the public submissions available for public viewing after the deadline (Oct. 30, 2023).
  - The Commission inquired about how data practices would come into play with the closed process during open submissions (10/2-10/30); MNHS shared that they would look into this issue and report back.

- Discuss options for sorting and ranking designs
  - MNHS shared that they are still working on how to deliver the designs to the Commission, and how to share with the public; the number of entries would dictate the technology.

Meetings and next steps

- Commission members should make plans for in-person meeting(s)
  - There will be at least 2 in-person meetings to begin to plan for:
    - Nov. 13-17 for determining the finalists, and
    - Dec. 4-15 to determine final designs
  - Commission members expressed an interest in hybrid options.

Chair Fitch adjourned the meeting.