

MEETING NOTES: State Emblems Redesign Commission: Oct. 10 Mtg.

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 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)*
 - *4/4 ex officio SERC members present*
- Adoption of Agenda
 - *Motion to approve the agenda was made by Buck; seconded by Jackson*
 - *No discussion; agenda was approved*
- Updates from Chair/Vice Chair
 - *MNHS shared an update re: data practices*
 - *An inquiry has been made to the Data Practices Office*
 - *It is still to be determined how and when the submissions will be shared to the Commission members and to the public*
 - *Vice Chair Gaul shared the K-8 SERC/Flag and Seal youth activity that she created for her local 4-H youth groups*
 - *The activity encourages youth to think critically about how Minnesota is represented in symbols, colors, and design; it prompted questions about collective representation and meaning*
 - *Documents from Vice Chair Gaul's activity will be shared with the Commission to adapt for their communities*
- Update on submissions and PR/media
 - *MNHS reported that there were just under 600 flag/seal submissions to date; 90% of submissions were for the state flag, 10% of submissions were for the state seal*
 - *MNHS provided an update on overall media coverage*
 - *There have been over 300 media hits of all types since the public submission process launched; positive traction with rural communities as well*
 - *MNHS has contacted the Legislative Reference Library re: past submissions; the library has documentation including bills and committee hearings but they do not have the past flag images; some images of previous newspaper initiatives is available*
- Finalist selection process

- Discuss options for sorting and ranking designs
- Review possible mechanisms for narrowing down to finalists
 - *MNHS reported that the method for narrowing down and sorting the submissions would dictate the technology that would be used*
 - *Commission discussed options for narrowing down the submissions, which could be as simple as pencil/paper to as complex as bringing in a vendor to support the technology aspect of this process*
 - *Options for sorting were discussed, including narrowing by: design elements, symbols, and colors*
 - *Commission discussed the creation of a subcommittee (1 for the flag design; 1 for the seal design) that would assist with the narrowing down process*
 - *Flag subcommittee: Luis Fitch, Kim Jackson, Lauren Bennett McGinty, and Denise Mazone were interested in serving on the flag subcommittee*
 - *Seal subcommittee: Kent Whitworth and Denise Mazone were interested in serving on the seal subcommittee*
 - *It was discussed that the subcommittee(s) could meet on a forthcoming Tuesday (9-10:30am) in lieu of the full Commission meeting*
 - *Commission members emphasized the importance of public input for the selection process*
 - *There was an interest in bringing in a vexillologist and/or a public notary to testify on best practices for flag and seal design*
- Meetings and next steps
 - Update on in-person meetings
 - *November meeting: determining finalists; possible public input*
 - *November and/or December meetings: determining final designs*
 - *MNHS discussed meeting location options including the Minnesota History Center as well as the MN State Capitol hearing rooms*
 - *Chair Fitch described a possible in-person meeting process; it is estimated that 4 hours will be needed, though some Commission members thought we may need more time*
- Adjourn
 - *Chair Fitch adjourned the meeting at 10:18am*