

## **MEETING NOTES: State Emblems Redesign Commission: Oct. 17 Mtg.**

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023

9:00-10:30am

[Meeting was held virtually]

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### **AGENDA**

- Call to Order
  - *Chair Fitch called the meeting to order at 9:01 am*
- Roll Call / Attendance
  - *Lindsey Dyer conducted attendance:*
    - *11/13 voting SERC members present (not present: Lauren Bennett McGinty, President Robert 'Deuce' Larsen)*
    - *3/4 ex officio SERC members present (not present: Rep. Bjorn Olson)*
- Adoption of Agenda
  - *Motion to approve the agenda was made by Whitworth; seconded by Buck*
  - *No discussion; agenda was approved*
- Updates from Chair/Vice Chair
  - *Vice Chair Gaul shared information about the educational resources that she created for her 4H group*
    - *The resources (in addition to Kim Jackson's flag chart) are available on the [SERC website](#)*
    - *Vice Chair Gaul encouraged other Commission members to share resources that they are using in their communities*
  - *Chair Fitch's exhibit: [Deconstructing the Minnesota Flag: A Design and Branding Exploration](#) is on display at North Hennepin Community College (Joseph Gazzuolo Art Gallery) now through December 2023*
  - *The Commission addressed the question of whether an individual could submit a design that already existed from a public body or unit of government, specifically a board/commission logo. Secretary Simon consulted with lawyers, both processes (and designs) are state / public functions therefore it should not be an issue basing a design off another agency's logo or similar design*
- Update on submissions and PR/media
  - *As of today: 778 online submissions, 12+ mailed submissions*
  - *MNHS shared an update on recent media:*
    - *The bulk of the media requests came out when the submission process was launched; a few additional stories on weekly newspapers are coming through*
    - *There will be another media push as we get closer to the deadline, reminding potential submitters of the deadline*
  - *The Commission discussed community outreach efforts, a few members reported on their touchpoints with various communities, schools, and boards*

- Review opportunities for expert testimony at SERC meetings
  - *Commission members discussed opportunities to bring in experts for public testimony in forthcoming meetings*
  - *Some organizations and individuals that were discussed included:*
    - *Lee Herold*
    - *The NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures)*
      - *Rep. Freiberg attended a session at the annual conference in August and can provide info on panelists*
    - *A representative from the Utah flag redesign process (Whitworth may have a connection)*
    - *NAVA (North American Vexillological Association)*
  - *Commission members were encouraged to share additional contacts/organizations that they believe would be helpful for testimony*
- Review proposed timeline for design selection process
  - *Chair Fitch shared a DRAFT timeline/outline for the upcoming Oct./Nov./Dec. meetings and process deadlines to review and discuss with the Commission*
  - *Chair Fitch addressed that due to a few factors (including the tight timeline, and in light of removing the possibility of bias when selecting designs), there was no longer a need for subcommittees for sorting designs; the Commission discussed*
  - *Commission members expressed their interest in ensuring that the public is involved with the upcoming selection process, and is able to view and have access to the submissions*
    - *MNHS responded that the Commission should keep time allocation in mind to ensure we are able to continue to move forward, on schedule for the 1/1/24 deadline*
  - *Sen. Draskowski brought up the question as to how to retire the current state flag; it was suggested that veterans be involved in this process*
- Meetings and next steps
  - Update on in-person meetings
    - November meeting
      - *Nov. 21 was discussed as the best option for our first in-person meeting*
      - *Location is TBD, though it will be held in St. Paul, MN*
    - December meeting: determining final designs
      - *Dec. 12 and Dec. 15 were identified as possibilities for the second in-person meeting(s)*
      - *Location is TBD, though it will be held in St. Paul, MN*
- Adjourn
  - *Chair Fitch adjourned the meeting at 10:09am*