Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023
9:00-10:30am
[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:
    - 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
  o Commission members discussed opportunities to bring in experts for public testimony in forthcoming meetings
  o 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)
  o Commission members were encouraged to share additional contacts/organizations that they believe would be helpful for testimony
• Review proposed timeline for design selection process
  o Chair Fitch shared a DRAFT timeline/outline for the upcoming Oct./Nov./Dec. meetings and process deadlines to review and discuss with the Commission
  o 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
  o 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
  o Sen. Drazkowski 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
  o 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
  o Chair Fitch adjourned the meeting at 10:09am