

MEETING NOTES: State Emblems Redesign Commission: Dec. 27 Mtg.

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023

9:00-11:00am

[Meeting was held virtually]

AGENDA

- Call to Order
 - *Chair Fitch called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Whitworth; seconded by Harralson*
 - *No discussion; agenda was approved*
- Updates from Chair/Vice Chair
 - *Chair Fitch congratulated the Commission on its work in selecting the new Minnesota State Flag last week*
 - *Rep. Olson shared that he is working on a minority report and it is due to be delivered prior to the Jan. 1 deadline*
- Intellectual property
 - *David Kelliher, MNHS presented on the ongoing conversation with the Office of the Attorney General re: the intellectual property for the 2,100 flag submissions and the 500 seal submissions*
 - *The newly selected/adopted flag and seal will be in the public domain*
 - *It was recommended that the remaining submitted designs be released into the public domain*
 - *When submitting designs, individuals checked a box releasing the design, including all property rights, to the State of MN; advice from the Office of the Attorney General is that the Commission releases, by formal action, these designs to the public domain*
 - *Wittnebel moves, and Harralson seconds the following action by the State Emblems Redesign Commission, with language provided by the MN Attorney General's Office:*
 - ***The State Emblems Redesign Commission (Commission) releases all rights and interest in all public flag and seal submissions received by the Commission effective upon submittal of the final report to the legislature and governor as required by Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 118. The above release is limited only to those proposals which are not integrated***

into the final report. All public submissions received by the Commission which are not integrated into the report are dedicated to the Public Domain at that time.

- *Motion passed via voice vote; unanimously in favor*
- *Wittnebel clarified that design iterations that were submitted after the submission period was over would be exempt from this motion and still retain their rights*
- **Review and approve final report**
 - *Chair Fitch thanked Commission member Kim Jackson for her time and expertise in drafting the final report*
 - **Wittnebel made a motion that any mention of the loon in the report should be changed to the “common loon,” the official Minnesota state bird**
 - *The motion was seconded by Harralson*
 - *The motion was voted on by roll call:*
 - *12/12 present voting members voted aye*
 - *The motion passed*
 - **Wittnebel made a motion to refer to the new flag as “the official flag of the state of Minnesota,” or, the new Minnesota flag**
 - *The motion was seconded by Harralson*
 - *Motion passed via voice vote; unanimously in favor*
 - **Secretary Simon made a motion to approve the final report, as amended**
 - *The motion was seconded by McKenzie*
 - *The motion was voted on by roll call:*
 - *11/12 present voting members voted aye*
 - *1/12 present voting members voted nay (Wittnebel)*
 - *The motion passed and the final report was adopted.*
- **Completion of work and next steps**
 - *Commission members expressed gratitude for the final report, with a special thanks to Kim Jackson, in addition to the MNHS staff who provided guidance and resources.*
 - *There was an interest in gathering on May 11 for any events that may be planned to mark the effective date of the new flag and seal.*
 - *Some Commission members discussed the minority report that would be forthcoming (potentially two minority reports)*
 - *Kelliher requested a deadline of 4pm on Dec. 27 for the minority reports to become included in the final report design and production schedule; this deadline would allow time for printing/production and then delivery to the Governor’s Office on Friday, Dec. 29, the last business day of the year before the January 1st deadline for submitting the report.*
- **Adjourn**
 - *Chair Fitch adjourned the meeting at 10:56 am*