



MINUTES: Chester County A250PA Commission Monthly Meeting
Hybrid – Chester County Government Services Center, Room 351E

August 6, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Fernando Fonseca, Colin Hanna, Mark Slouf, Rob Williams

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Sam Bissenbina, MarySue Boyle, James Christ, Adam Desch, Jennifer Green, Susan Hamley, Larycia Hawkins, Tim Hennessey, Michelle Kichline, MaryFrances McGarrity, Winifred Moran Sebastian, John Reynolds, Krys Sipple, Randell Spackman

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

CCPC STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: Carol Stauffer, Jeannine Speirs, Bronwen Barnett, Gene Huller

CCPC STAFF PRESENT VIA ZOOM: None

VISITORS PRESENT IN PERSON: None

VISITORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Deb Leach

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting of the Chester County A250PA Commission held in person at the Chester County Government Services Center and via Zoom audio/video on Thursday, August 6th, 2026, was called to order at 4:03 P.M. by Michelle Kichline, Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS MADE BY MARY SUE BOYLE, SECONDED BY COLIN HANNA, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDED: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JULY 9, 2026, MEETING OF THE CHESTER COUNTY A250PA COMMISSION.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Carol Stauffer presented an update on the balances of the America250 Chester County Commission Charitable Fund (CC250) and other monies allocated for the Commissions' use.

- The update included details on any donations received and expenses incurred during the month of July 2026.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY ROB WILLIAMS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

A250PA CHESTER COUNTY (CC250) BUSINESS

- Jeannine Speirs presented a proposal to partner with three battlefields (Brandywine, Clouds and Paoli) for a float in the West Chester Holiday Parade. She requested approval for a \$400 entry fee and up to \$750 for banner wraps featuring the logos for the three battlefields and CC250.
- The float will include reenactors and a six-person band, with DAR members and school children walking alongside the float. A tractor and a hay wagon have been secured.
- After approval of costs, assistance will be requested to fill out the parade application.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$400 FOR THE APPLICATION FEE AND UP TO \$750 FOR THE BANNER COST FOR THE FLOAT WAS MADE BY MARY SUE BOYLE, SECONDED BY MARK SLOUF, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- Name and Logo for 2027
 - The group discussed changing the current logo from “250PA Chester County” to reflect the transition to 2027.
 - A decision was made to explore new logo concepts, with Colin Hanna offering services of a professional graphic designer and Adam Desch offering to use AI to generate design possibilities.
 - John Reynolds cautioned that changing the logo too drastically could lose existing awareness and suggested a campaign to explain the extension of the commission’s work into 2027.
 - Jeannine suggested the new logo be used on the float banner so that it could be reused in 2027 during events.
 - Logo concepts could incorporate the existing CC250 logo in some capacity.
- 2027 Vision Discussion
 - Michelle asked for discussion and input on the Commission’s accomplishments in 2026, and a discussion of the vision, goals and organization of the Commission as we head into 2027.
 - Notable comments include:
 - Capturing our efforts on the 250th is important for America 300.
 - We could provide better communications and be more proactive on the potential 2027 events– and create a calendar for 2027 - so

that the Commission can determine who and what we can partner with our support.

- At this point in the conversation, Jeannine Speirs noted that she and Randell Spackman have been spearheading conversations with the three battlefields, taking a regional approach, considering engagement locations as well as the regional troop movements in the definition of a “battlefield”. Northern and a Southern Phila Campaign Zoom groups are being established. There are large and small event ideas, and while a list of the ideas, general timeline and locations can be created, volunteers and funding are needed to get any events on the calendar.
- The Commission should consider transitioning from a management committee to a supportive donor organization, allowing historians to lead event planning while the Commission provides funding and support.
- Continuing to embrace, promote and support the Heritage Interpretive Network, the Heritage Sites and making the kiosks operational at multiple sites is a legacy project that also promotes the Philadelphia Campaign.
- If we drop the emphasis on the 250th, we lose the theme of the continued story / the battle continues. It’s an opportunity to correct misinformation; July 4, 1776 was not the capstone, it was the kickoff.
- This is a tourism opportunity - all our municipalities would welcome the economic impact.
- Michelle asked for input on should our committee structure change and/or do we operate differently going forward? Suggestions included:
 - Perhaps we don’t need to change the Committees, but rather, redefine what each Committee’s goals / mission should be.
 - MarCom, Technology and Education could work together in a different way and could even be combined.
 - Per our website, “The mission of America250PA Chester County (CC250) is to bring people together to honor the past, celebrate our communities today, and inspire the next 250 years.” How are we doing this the best way? We have been working too much in “silos”.
 - If the Commission narrows its goals to a few, each initiative (goal) could have its own Committee. For example, a Battlefield Ball could would have a Battlefield Ball Committee.
 - The Committees’ work already overlaps in areas such as the newsletters that the staff create. They disseminate information on events (one of our major goals) and direct people to information on our website and the events page. Resources for educators can continue to be included on our website per links to materials and other resources.
- Charitable Fund Update

- Landing page has been approved by County Commissioners and CCEDC.
- Residential flags are now being promoted on the Donate web page; however, donations are still being pointed towards CCCF.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mary Sue Boyle proposed funding the WCU Orchestra expense in playing during the October 15th CCCBI Annual dinner event. This would involve 75 musicians performing a 30-minute program. The University President will speak during those segments. We would fund potential transportation and a boxed dinner.
- There were some questions on ticket pricing, offsetting ticket costs, and attendance policies. Commissioner Maxwell's office had been working on this event with Laura Manion and Michelle Kichline will reach out to Commission Maxwell to be updated about the events' direction.
- Names have been forwarded for new commission members, with two credentials being forwarded for consideration at this time.
- Larycia Hawkins reported on a successful historic tour at Old Lincoln & historic Hinsonville and plans for future tours including one for early September and a symposium scheduled for October 14.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:31 PM WAS MADE BY COLIN HANNA, SECONDED BY ROB WILLIAMS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryFrances McGarrity, Secretary
Chester County A250PA Commission

MM/brb