



**America 250 | CT Commission
Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes**

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f36SToVNdeY>

Attendees

Subcommittee

Arienne Orozco
Michael Werner
Jason Mancini
Deborah Schander

CTH Staff

Cyndi Tolosa
Rachel Gonzalez

The meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

1. Minutes Approval
 - a. [June 12, 2026](#)

Vote to approve June minutes: Motion - Jason Mancini; Second- Michael Werner; Yes - 3; No - 0; Abstain - 1 (Deborah Schander was not present at the June meeting)

2. Commission Timeline
 - a. What is our ideal sunset timeframe?

Cyndi Tolosa opened conversation on the timeline of sunsetting the commission, which is currently scheduled to run through June 30, 2028. Denise Merrill previously proposed sunsetting at the end of 2026 and using the January 2027 meeting to approve a final report. In the most recent Engagement subcommittee meeting, there was discussion of running through the end of fiscal year 2027.

Subcommittee members engaged in a discussion of factors to consider in determining the timeline for sunsetting the commission. Points of discussion included:

- Engagement with commission and state and federal support point to wrapping up prior to the planned date of mid-2028;
- Commission should remain open until CT Humanities has spent down all funds, likely at the end of FY27;
- A mid-2027 sunset will allow for more thorough reporting;
- 250th activities are likely to continue into 2027 and those should be supported

This conversation will continue at the October commission meeting.

3. Annual Report Planning
 - a. What are the big picture answers that we want to provide?

Discussion on reporting included a recommendation to produce an annual report for 2026 in the same format as previous reports, as well as a more reflective final report which will include lessons learned for future commemorations. Subcommittee members recommended including the following in the final report:

- Data received from affiliates & local committees about their events;
 - Work from a consultant helping to reflect upon the planning process, needs of organizations and municipalities, and how to better meet those needs;
 - Exit interviews with commission members
 - Lessons regarding availability of funding for a multiple-year planning process
 - Tourism implications
 - Potential for engaging with youth now and in future commemorations
4. October Commission Meeting Agenda
- a. What items should be addressed?

Items that will be included on the October commission meeting agenda include:

- Commission sunset timeline
- Annual & final reporting plans
- Summer events recap

No additional agenda items were discussed.

5. Other Business as Needed

The meeting ended at 10:27 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2026, 10:00-10:30 AM