

Minutes of the Lincoln Legacy Committee meeting
4:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY September 25, 2024

CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Busey Bank Conference Room, Room 222
200 WEST GREEN STREET
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:28

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey (Barb O-G), Barbara Wysocki, Ray Cunningham, Eric Thorsland, Adele Suslick, Pat Cain, Allyson Smerz. Absent: Kay Grabow, Kamryn Suttinger

3. Approval of Agenda/Addendum/Addenda

Barb Wysocki moved to approve agenda; Pat Cain seconded. In discussion, Barb Wysocki asked whether we needed to talk about moving the date of the next meeting. Barb O-G decided to add that discussion to the agenda. Eric Thorsland moved to add that discussion to the agenda. Ray Cunningham seconded. Vote called, amended agenda approved.

4. Approval of Minutes for meeting July 31, 2024

Eric Thorsland moved to approve minutes, Adele Suslick seconded. Vote called; minutes approved.

5. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

6. Old Business

General Updates (school tours) Barb Wysocki

a. There were two tours since our last meeting. A group of 6 elderly citizens who are residents in one of our local memory care facilities. They were uninhibited. Judge Rosenbaum did really well in telling them about the functioning of the courthouse. Many were on walkers, they handled the building well, however. Recently there were also 35 students from Unity East. They come every year and are well acquainted with and attentive to the program. Well supervised and well-disciplined students made for a good program.

b. CCMN meeting

Barb Wysocki attended the CCMN meeting and received some of the rack cards for the CCMN. The cards were created in time for the Pride Fest. Barb O-G said she was considering a rack card for the LLC. Adele Suslick commented that the number of participants in CCMN has increased recently.

The logistics of Pride Fest were most of what was discussed in the CCMN meeting.

c. **Other.** Barb O-G said she has been working on a brochure and a rack card as she has recently acquired the right software to do them. Adele Suslick says she would favor a brochure. Barb Wysocki says she gets a great deal out of the bookmarks we had made several years ago. Barb O-G asked Barb Wysocki to provide her with a bookmark so she could replicate it for re-creation when Barb Wysocki had given them all away.

Barb O-G noted that the brochure has a different purpose because there is a great deal to promote: the Courthouse and Museum of the Grand Prairie exhibits, the Archives, the Illinois History and Lincoln Collection, the Champaign County History Museum, the Carle Park Lorado Taft Sculpture, the Lincoln and DAR wayside signage, the friezes on Lincoln Hall. Much of that would not fit on the rack card.

Allyson Smerz noted that the CCMN rack card sends one to a website. Pat Cain said that it might be easier to create the brochure and do a website and rack card later. Barb O-G said that there was once a website presence for the committee on the Museum of the Grand Prairie website. Eric Thorsland checked what the presence was on the County website. The county website has official data, but we could provide a link. He also checked to see if our domain name had been taken and it appears that, so far, that has not occurred.

The Lincoln Legacy committee is described on the Museum of the Grand Prairie website, but the link for more information is to Barb O-G's old ccfpd address. Barb O-G said she's alert Kamryn to that dead address.

Lincoln's Kansas-Nebraska Act speech plans

a. **Plans** Barb Wysocki briefed us on the program. It will occur at 3 pm at the Champaign County Courthouse on October 24. It will probably occur in the jury assembly area and proceed to the Cunningham marker. A red, white, and blue wreath will be placed on the marker. Steve Beckett will do the presentation on Lincoln's speech. A musical group, the Olde Music Group, will perform. They were thrilled because they do have a repertoire of Lincoln-era music. Barb Wysocki is still searching for a judge to do the wreath laying honors. Judge Rosenbaum will be out of town that week. Most of the other judges are not available, but Chad Beckett will be. Barb Wysocki sought approval from the committee to ask him; we all agreed that she should ask him.

Ray Cunningham asked how we will publicize the event. Barb O-G said there will be an Inside Out article coming out on October 19 that describes the exhibit. Barb O-G and Barb Wysocki said they would investigate the possibilities for taking pictures of the event and sending them on to News Gazette or WCIA.

Meeting with Courthouse staff:

Barb Wysocki and Barb O-G met with Dana Brenner and solidified logistics of banner placement, wreath placement and chairs set up on the day of the Kansas-Nebraska event. During that meeting we discovered the courthouse has been paying for the maintenance of the exhibit all year long.

Program

Now that the question of what judge to ask is settled, Barb Wysocki will complete her text for the program and send it to Barb O-G who will design a program graphically. At the same time, Barb Wysocki and Barb O-G passed out the promotional post cards we created.

Banners

Barb Wysocki asked for the committee to take a look at the Kansas-Nebraska Act banner in the courthouse. She said she had recently gone to the courthouse and saw a good number of people reading the banner. Only one banner was made, because we only needed it for one weekend in another place, at the Archives Bazaar. Pat Cain said he will pick it up for the Archives Bazaar and return it. Barb O-G will create railroad related content for the Archives Bazaar.

c. Update on the Courthouse 2026 project

The DAR is making a marker to commemorate the US 250th. Outside near the circuit marker is the proposed location.

There are also folks who would like to dedicate the marker for Bruce Hannon in the courthouse because he was so instrumental in getting the tower restored and the clock working. Eric Thorsland said the County Board has made a proclamation that dedicates the clock and a day to Bruce Hannon. Barb Wysocki and Eric Thorsland decided to discuss this later.

d. AL National Heritage Network update

Underground Railroad Exhibit opens on September 26, 2024, in Springfield and soon will open in Macomb. Pat has done the curriculum development for the school groups.

Lincoln Lecture at the Museum of the Grand Prairie in October was cancelled. A Lincoln presenter will continue the 17th annual Lincoln Lecture series at the museum on November 9, 2024.

A Lincoln exhibit at the Illinois History and Lincoln Collection will be featured there in February.

7. New Business

a. Expenses, Budgeting, and the Courthouse

Eric Thorsland said there will be something in the budget for the committee next year, and the budgeting process is being concluded in October. Barb O-G said please remember that we will be talking to Taylor Studios in the coming year.

b. Reschedule of Meeting-Barb O-G checked the library schedule to see if the room when the Busey Bank Conference Room was available, and December 4 was the only date. Everyone said they were available on that date. Eric Thorsland said there may or may not be a conflict with his wife's citizenship ceremony, but other than that he saw no conflicts.

Barb Wysocki moved we accept the December 4 date, Eric Thorsland seconded. Vote called; motion approved.

Our next meeting has been rescheduled to 4:40 pm. December 4, 2024, in the Busey Bank Conference Room.

c. Other: History of Homer is being presented by Ray Cunningham at the Homer Historical Society in September and October.

Barb O-G is writing the Inside Out article, creating the Railroad component of the Archives Bazaar, and will run these pieces past the committee before publication.

Ray Cunningham moved to adjourn; Eric seconded.

8. Meeting Schedule-mark your calendars.

January 29, 2025, Meeting Rooms TBA

March 26, 2025

May 28, 2025

July 30, 2025

September 24, 2025

November 26, 2025