

Lincoln Legacy Committee
Busey Bank Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
December 4, 2024
Minutes

1. Call to Order- The Lincoln Legacy Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on December 4, 2024.

2. Roll Call Members present: Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey, Barb Wysocki, Eric Thorland, Ray Cunningham, Kay Grabow, Adele Suslick. Members absent with prior notice: Kamryn Suttinger, and Pat Cain. Allyson Smerz arrived at 4:40 p.m.

3. Approval of Agenda. Ray Cunningham moved to approve the agenda, and Eric Thorland seconded. The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes, September 25, 2024. Barb Wysocki moved to approve the minutes; Kay Grabow seconded. The minutes were approved.

5. Public Participation. There was no public participation.

6. Old Business

A. Kansas-Nebraska Act Event Report

Barb Wysocki was pleased with the turnout, roughly forty people. Folks seemed genuinely interested in the subject matter. Courthouse staff were engaged and involved which added to the success of the event. Suggestions for improvements: Ray Cunningham said we needed more room. Barb O-G said we did have the Hesler portrait opening in the Jury Assembly Room. It may be possible to do something there next time, reserving Friday as the day to do it. Barb O-G thanked all the people who had assisted with the event. Steve Beckett and the musicians were all pleased with the event according to Barb Wysocki.

B. Courthouse Tours

No courthouse tours since the last meeting.

C. Archives Bazaar

Barb Wysocki and Barb O-G reported as both were involved in presenting LLC materials. The crowd was good, and interested, roughly 130 people attending. We took the Kansas-Nebraska Act banner, promotional materials, and a couple of smaller panels explaining Lincoln's involvement in the railroad. Several other historical organizations attended including the Champaign County History Museum, the Museum of the Grand Prairie, the Homer Historical Society, the Map and Geography Library, the Newspaper Library, and the University Archives.

D. Publications

Barb O-G is working on the brochure. She will send it to the committee for proofing soon.

E. CCMN Report

The CCMN retreat will be held in January or February; Barb Wysocki was not sure. Scott Schwartz mentioned an Up with People/America type of event wherein school districts in the state all sing the same songs at the same time. Kay Grabow suggested that an

association like IMEA might be the leader in such an endeavor. Barb W. suggested Uni could get involved. Barb O-G suggested we should focus on courthouse-based events. Barb W. said we have contacts and cooperation from the courthouse staff now which will make our efforts easier. Eric Thorsland added that the new facilities in the county plaza, in addition to staff changes, might make our programs more challenging.

F. 2026 Planning-no discussion.

G. LFL Report- Pat Cain has filed our yearly report with Looking for Lincoln. He will send it to us for review at the next meeting.

7. New Business

A. LFL Annual Report (see old business)

B. Goal Setting 2025.

Barb O-G would like to complete the brochure. She said it would be useful for us to have a cursory website. Eric said the county could probably host a website for us. The Clio mapping of the Champaign County landmarks is also something Barb O-G would like to complete. Barb Wysocki and Barb O-G will be talking to Taylor Studios about exhibit revision this year. Eric stated the county has a grant specialist now, so it may be easier to fundraise for the exhibit. Lincoln Lectures will probably occur at the Museum of the Grand Prairie in 2025.

C. Review Meeting dates-Barb O-G has reserved all the meeting dates.

D. Other: Allyson Smerz's exhibit on *Lincoln's Evolving Image* will be on display at the Illinois History and Lincoln Collection in the Main Library building. It will be exhibited on and after February 12. She's not sure if there will be a public opening or not. Barb O-G asked that Allyson would let us know if there is an opening.

Barb O-G asked on behalf of Kamryn Suttinger whether the meeting could be moved to a 4:00 p.m. start time. Everyone agreed. Beginning in January we will meet at 4:00 p.m.

9. Upcoming Meetings

- January 29, 2025, Friends Conference Room, Champaign Public Library
- March 26, 2025 Friends Conference Room, Champaign Public Library
- May 28, 2025, Busey Bank Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
- July 30, 2025 Busey Bank Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
- September 24, 2025 Busey Bank Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
- December 3, 2025, Busey Bank Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library

9. Adjournment: Barb Wysocki moved to adjourn. Ray Cunningham seconded.