

Lincoln Exhibits Committee
Urbana Free Library, Conference Room
210 W. Green St., Urbana
Tuesday, October 2, 2007 – 4:30 p.m.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Lincoln Exhibits Committee was convened at 4:30 p.m. by Barbara Wysocki, Committee Chair.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Kent Tucker, John Hoffman, Ray Cunningham, Vern Zehr, Anke Voss, Barbara Wysocki, Kay Grabow

Also Present: Cheryl Kennedy and Barbara Garvey, Early American Museum; Angela Ingerson, Champaign County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the Resource List by Kent Tucker, second by Anke Voss. Motion carried.

Approval of September 4, 2007 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by Kent Tucker, second by John Hoffman. Motion carried.

Public Participation

There was no public participation at this time.

Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Update

Barbara Wysocki reported that 16 people have been appointed to the Bicentennial Commission. These appointments were made by the cities of Champaign and Urbana and Champaign County. The Chair of the County Board will call the Commission together in October so they can begin working.

Wayside Exhibits Workshop

The workshop provided participants with information to help them develop their waysides. Handouts included layout examples for each type of wayside and a resource list of places to search for images and historical content. All have received an email instructing them to begin working on their wayside – or if they submitted more than one, they were to work on the one that is their highest priority. Once word has been received that new funds have been granted, all of the waysides will be funded. A production schedule will most likely be developed by regions.

8th Judicial Circuit Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to see if there was an interest in organizing the communities that were on the circuit and the end result was that all agreed this should be done. The Bureau of Tourism speaker encouraged participants to apply for tourism

grants for their projects and to also think of ways to apply as a circuit. Bill Houlihan from Senator Durbin's office shared that things look positive for the Lincoln Heritage Area and for the second grant for the wayside exhibits. We divided up into groups and our group included Vermilion, Champaign and Piatt County. The conversation centered around connecting through a bike trail. Nicky Stratton asked each county to appoint 3 people to serve on an official 8th Judicial Circuit Committee and they will be sending out an announcement about the next meeting. Barb Wysocki suggested that the Bicentennial Commission may be the likely group to make these appointments.

DVD Narrative

Barb Garvey reported that she had reviewed the Committee's comments and made revisions accordingly. Anke liked the change of voice and Kay liked the fact that the sections were free-standing and could be used individually by teachers. Barb's main concern is the length. Barb and Ray will work to finalize the narrative and send it back out to everyone for a final review. Barb and Ray will also discuss and talk to media firms for the Committee's consideration.

Teacher Workshop Funding Report

The workshop is fully funded and the speakers are all identified with only one yet to confirm. The American History Teacher Collaborative has provided the funding and will also promote the workshop for/with us. We will be responsible for developing the promotional materials, handling registration, and selecting/purchasing the resource materials.

Resource Materials

Kay Grabow made several suggestions for the resource materials for teachers. Kent brought lesson plans he picked up at a workshop he attended. Anke shared that she has been working to create a concise list of resource material rather than a comprehensive list. She has focused on sites with images to date. Barb Garvey suggested the list include Lincoln locally. Kay agreed and felt it would be beneficial if teachers could determine the appropriate age level for these materials and if children could actually use them.

Request for Information Regarding Lincoln Exhibits

The RFI has been mailed to 5 Illinois exhibit design firms and Cheryl has heard from two of the firms to date.

Grant Applications

Museum staff has begun work on the Museums for America grant. This grant will focus on the enclosed space in the Courthouse and we will be asking for \$50,000 and required to match that amount with \$50,000. It is due November 1. The Bicentennial Commission has announced a second round of grants due November 15. We plan to ask for funds to renovate the museum exhibit with this grant and an Illinois Humanities Council grant for the same. We will use the National Endowment of Humanities grant for the rest of the Courthouse exhibit and this grant is due in January.

In her response to grant questions, Kay had suggested several titles for the exhibit and the Committee liked *Abraham Lincoln: A Large Presence in a Small Town*. Cheryl was to email Kay's answers to the questions to the rest of the committee to help them determine if they could expand on Kay's comments.

Cheryl reminded the Committee that we need to raise the match for the two wayside exhibits – Homer Lake and the Courthouse.

Fundraising Strategy

The grant applications request information about the applicant match and what you will do if you do not raise these funds so it is important to begin developing a plan now. Committee members suggested potential donors for consideration and Cheryl is to organize these names for further discussion. The Committee will then prioritize the names, develop the body of the text, and determine how to proceed. Angela Ingerson offered to talk to the local scout organizations about ways they might help raise funds toward this project and how it might tie into their heritage badgework.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 6, 2007, 4:30 p.m. at the Urbana Library Conference Room.

Adjournment

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Vern Zehr. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Kennedy, Recording Secretary