

Lincoln Legacy Committee  
Minutes for Meeting  
December 10, 2025, 4:00 p.m.  
Busey Bank Community Room, Champaign Public Library

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on December 10, 2025.
2. Roll Call: Members present: Kay Grabow, Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey, Barb Wysocki, Kamryn Suttinger, Allyson Smerz. Members absent: Pat Cain, Eric Thorstrand, Ray Cunningham, Adele Suslick
3. Approval of the Agenda: Kamryn Suttinger moved to approve the agenda, and Allyson Smerz seconded. Agenda unanimously approved
4. Approval of the Minutes of the October 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 meeting.  
Kay Grabow moved to approve the minutes, Barb Wysocki seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.
5. Public Participation: None:
6. Old Business

and.Dj.8682Planning.General.Updates (merged with 2026 planning D)

Courthouse Events and Exhibit- Barb Wysocki, Pat Cain and Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey (Barb O-G) met to discuss the possibility of an exhibit at the courthouse in conjunction with the events planned for May and August. Pat has a display case that would be transportable and could be used in such an exhibit as well as documents that may pertain to the courthouse exhibit. Barb O-G agreed to work up content and provide any graphic material that might be needed for said exhibit. Barb Wysocki had previously met with Judge Rosenbaum and arranged a second meeting including Barb O-G and Pat Cain. Resulting from that meeting was an agreement that the exhibit should run from May 1 to September 1 (or thereabouts) and it would include materials from the courthouse. Judge Rosenbaum agreed to contact judges and other courthouse personnel for possible items for the exhibit case. The location chosen is near the vending machine area, across from the elevators. Judge Rosenbaum stated that there may be pertinent material in the basement of the courthouse as well, and that the Champaign County Historical Archives might benefit from some of that material. Barb Wysocki stated that she thought this relationship gained from the events/exhibit is a valuable side benefit of these activities. Barb O-G asked Allyson if there was any news from the Illinois History and Lincoln Collection. Allyson stated not about Lincoln however the IHLC does have a substantial amount of material from the Cohen family, about forty archival boxes.

Barb Wysocki recounted that because Sol Cohen played the violin at the dedication a violinist has been included in many courthouse gatherings and that we might consider that for the August event. Barb O-G suggested talking to Rick Murphy (music teacher at Uni High) to find a student violinist; Barb Wysocki said she would ask him if he could find one. Barb Wysocki also stated she had visited Will Best and gone through the Cohen genealogy with him. There are lovely stories about Cohen playing his violin for the troops in World War I.

Other plans include our physical assistance at an event on May 1. Judge Rosenbaum is in contact with some schools and is hoping to have several school tours through the courthouse that day. There may also be retired lawyers who are working at this event as well. Barb O-G did look up the Illinois Marathon. The marathon does occur the weekend before May 1 so there is no conflict.

Bj.CCMN.Report.868 Plans with the Museum Network--Barb Wysocki reported that the Museum Network is going ahead with a plan to collect art from area schools and community members to commemorate the 2026 -250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US. The current theme is "American Voices." Various institutions will host the artwork.

Cj.Taylor.Studios

Pat Cain and Barb O-G inspected the Lincoln Exhibit in the courthouse to see if there was any way to enter the exhibit to change the lightbulbs or fix/replace the speakers since it appears that may be the problem. Taylor Studios has not been terribly responsive, and Barb O-G thought it might be possible to fix it in-house, so to speak. Barb O-G does have another call out to Taylor to follow up. No one has yet returned calls. The goal is to get this completed before May 1.

Dj.Urbana.Lincoln.sign.update

Barb O-G reported that she and Brian Adams had met at the Royer Hotel and scoped out areas where a sign might be placed with four possibilities. The first is on the corner, looking east and south towards the Royer Hotel because it's the best viewpoint both of the courthouse and the hotel. And it's also very visible from the library, so you're likely to get pedestrians looking at it. A second location would be as you drive into the hotel parking lot, however it looked like they were going to put up a sign there, because there were two big post holes dug there already. A third location would be on the building itself and fourth inside the mall. Barb O-G stated that she and Brian hadn't talked to the hotel people yet but if they turn us down, we'll speak to Urbana. There is also a possibility of the city and the hotel jointly funding the sign.

E<sub>j</sub>.Annual.report.to.LLC-ALNHA\_ No report due at this time  
F<sub>i</sub>.Review.of.by\_laws -Not yet distributed. However, Barb O-G urged members to think about the convenience of the meeting times. As part of our upcoming by-laws review, Barb O-G stated that we might want to change our meeting times. The November meeting will always be rescheduled because it always falls during Thanksgiving time. Additionally, the May meeting usually falls near the Memorial Day holiday when members are out of town.

G<sub>i</sub>.Other\_Underground.Railroad.Exhibit  
Underground Railroad Exhibit-

The Underground Railroad Exhibit from the Looking for Lincoln Coalition will be at the Urbana Free Library from January 15 to March 29, 2026. The Lincoln Legacy Committee may help with providing funding if Pat Cain is able to contract with Kathryn Harris to present her interpretation of Harriet Tubman as one of the accompanying events. Barb O-G had discussed this with Pat previously. An opening is planned for Thursday October 15 at 7 pm at the Urbana Free Library.

## 7. New Business

A<sub>j</sub>.General.(Bill?next.Inside.Out)

This discussion occurred during the 2026 planning (above). Barb Wysocki asked if we would be using our next Inside Out for publicity, and Barb O-G said the next one is due on December 25 to be published on January 4 and is a bit too early for publicity, but that the next one should be in mid-March to Mid-April and would be perfectly timed for publicity. Barb O-G said she would write the next Inside Out and was considering the Winter of the Deep Snow as the topic given its relevance to our most recent snowstorm.

B<sub>i</sub>.Bill.for.CCMN: Barb O-G has to pay the bill to the Museum Network but Eric, who would facilitate this, is out of the country. Barb O-G said she'd be in touch with him soon.

C<sub>j</sub>Membership; Allyson is continuing to apply for jobs, so we may need to think about filling that seat soon.

D<sub>i</sub>.Next.meeting will be in the Helen Satterthwaite Room at the Urbana Free Library as no space was available at the Champaign Public Library. The meeting will be on January 28, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.