

**LINCOLN EXHIBITS COMMITTEE**  
**Urbana Free Library, Conference Room**  
**210 W. Green St., Urbana**  
**Tuesday, October 7, 2008**

**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: Barbara Wysocki, John Hoffman, Vern Zehr, Kent Tucker, Anke Voss, Kay Grabow. Also present: Cheryl Kennedy of the Early American Museum and Heather Tucker, Communication Specialist for the IMLS grant.

**Approval of the Agenda/ Addendum**

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Anke Voss. Motion carried.

**Approval of September 2, 2008 Minutes**

Motion by Vern Zehr, second by John Hoffman. Motion carried

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Old Business**

*Update on Fundraising*

Vern reported that he has sent a letter to Birkey's Farm Stores on September 29th. He will be following up with a call to Ron Birkey in the next few weeks. We also received \$250 from Fisher National Bank with a note to contact them again during the first quarter of 2009.

Committee members agreed that it was time to seriously consider forms of recognition and that they would benefit from a meeting with members of the Clock and Bell Committee to ensure we were consistent in our approach.

*Taylor Studios Contract*

Cheryl reported that the District and Taylor Studios have completed their work to develop a mutually agreed upon contract. This includes sections required under the terms and conditions of the IMLS grant. Cheryl also noted that the District asked Taylor Studios to add an additional services cost to develop schematic designs for the EAM exhibit. The contract will be on the agenda of the October board meeting and it will be signed by the President of the Board. Barb Wysocki urged committee members to read through the contract and to direct any questions they might have to Cheryl.

**New Business**

*Upcoming Meeting on Eighth Judicial Circuit Interpretive Plan*

Representatives of the Eighth Judicial Circuit communities will meet in Springfield on Wednesday, October 15th to learn about and receive copies of the recently completed study. Representatives will receive both a hard copy and a CD of the interpretive plan.

### *Looking for Lincoln Wayside dedications*

The dedication for the Homer Lake Looking for Lincoln sign has been set for November 1, 2008 at 2 p.m. Urbana plans to dedicate its wayside sign the end of October.

### *Champaign County's Lincoln DVD*

Approval from the state to allow the DVD to run on Champaign's public access channel has been received. Champaign reviewed it and has approved it as well.

### *Other Lincoln activities*

Guy Fraker will speak at the Urbana Library in November

Conversations with Lincoln Scholars began Monday, October 6 and will continue throughout October.

### **Other Business**

Heather Tucker gave a summary of her focus group discussion with 70 teachers from varied educational levels participating in an American History Teacher Collaborative workshop at the Early American Museum on September 20th. The teachers were fully engaged in the conversation and comments from group to group were consistent.

- Teachers felt it would be good to have modern elements incorporated into the courthouse exhibit, but it did not have to be high tech. They are still looking for things that are tactile - things that move the story along - interaction that the kids can have with the exhibit through interpreters. The benefit of interpreters would be that they could adjust their presentations to the age groups visiting the courthouse.
- Teachers are very interested in their students comparing an 1840s courthouse experience with something similar to today.
- Teachers welcomed the opportunity to learn more about Lincoln before he was president.
- Teachers are interested in new ways to introduce civic engagement into the classroom.
- Teachers agreed that we needed to prepare them for the visit to the courthouse, including what they may and may not see happening in the courthouse while they were visiting.
- Teachers agreed that pre- and post-trip materials would be critical to this experience. Most preferred getting their information online, but some will need hard copies.

Heather will be doing two more focus groups on Saturday, October 25th. One group will consist of mothers with children still at home and the second group will be with home school families.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Lincoln Exhibits Committee is Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Anke Voss. Motion carried.