

LINCOLN EXHIBITS COMMITTEE
Urbana Free Library, Conference Room
210 W. Green St., Urbana
Tuesday, November 4, 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, Kent Tucker, Vern Zehr, Anke Voss, Kay Grabow. Also Present: Cheryl Kennedy and Barb Garvey 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 Vern Zehr. Motion carried

Approval of the October 7, 2008 Minutes

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Vern Zehr. Motion carried.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Old Business

Focus Group Report

Heather reported that the second focus group was comprised of mothers (one grandmother) and that a couple mothers home schooled their children. This group walked through the museum and talked about specific ways they felt their children become engaged with the exhibits.

- Mothers like to know which way they should begin and how they will interact with the exhibits in the room. Both the teacher group and the parent group like a confined space that allows them to keep track of their children and helps them focus their children.
- Children are drawn to things they can touch and interact with.
- Murals that included movement might attract kids more than a static background.
- Short recordings like sounds or short statements are more attractive.
- Those who had interacted with interpreters had positive feedback.
- Parents appreciate barriers that keep children out of exhibit areas.
- Parents appreciate visual cues that offer them an explanation or story-telling opportunity with their children.
- Parents will visit a website to help them prepare for the exhibit but not necessarily for further education after the visit.
- Parents thought the courthouse exhibit would be more appropriate for older children, but they were concerned about the hours the exhibit would be available to them.
- The mothers asked questions about how we would promote these exhibits.

8th Judicial Circuit Meeting

Barb Wysocki, Barb Garvey, and Cheryl Kennedy attended a meeting developed to bring the 17 communities along the 8th Judicial Circuit together to see if there was interest in forming a coalition. Participants received a hard copy and CD of the recently completed interpretive plan. This plan includes a sampling of Lincoln resources and a list of community contacts in each of the communities. The goal of the coalition would be to develop a collective visitor experience focused on Lincoln's relationships and legal cases in each of the communities.

Taylor Studios Meeting

Barb Wysocki, Barb Garvey, Denny Inman and Cheryl Kennedy participated in a workshop at the Courthouse led by staff of Taylor Studios. We agreed on the central themes of the exhibit that day and have since been working on the key points of the exhibit through email. Hopefully we will have something soon to use for promotion of the exhibit in this space.

Donor Recognition Meeting

Barb Wysocki, Cheryl Kennedy, Judge and Pat Jensen, Steve Beckett, and Denny Inman met to talk about donor recognition for both Clock Tower and Lincoln exhibit donors. The group determined that both would be recognized in the same space – a permanent wall that will be installed at the south end of the foyer. The recognition wall be on the outside (south side) of the wall and we (the Lincoln Exhibit Committee) will use the same recognition levels and plaque design as the Clock Tower Committee.

Waysides Dedications

Three waysides were dedicated the end of October and first of November – Urbana, St. Joseph, and Homer Lake. We still have the Tolono, Mahomet and Courthouse signs to dedicate.

Report from Association of Midwest Museums

Cheryl attended a good session on how to keep building and exhibit design costs under control. This session focused on the importance of the planning phase and how change orders can significantly increase the bottom line. Along this line, Vern reported that the Board of Commissioners had expressed concern about the cost of the courthouse exhibit and approved it as a “not to exceed” figure. Cheryl also expressed the importance of defining intellectual property rights throughout the exhibit process.

Barb Garvey talked about her experience at the Truman Library and Museum, specifically the interactive that allowed visitors to register their feelings to questions of the time and then see how their vote compared to others. She could see this experience offered at the courthouse.

Next Meeting

December 2, 2008, 4:30 p.m. at Urbana Free Library Conference Room.

Adjournment

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Vern Zehr. Motion carried.