

LINCOLN EXHIBITS COMMITTEE
Urbana Free Library, Conference Room
210 W. Green St., Urbana
Tuesday, December 2, 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, Ray Cunningham, Vern Zehr, Kent Tucker, John Hoffman, Anke Voss, Kay Grabow. Also present: Heather Tucker, IMLS grant Communication Specialist, Cheryl Kennedy and Barb Garvey of the Early American Museum.

Approval of the Agenda/Addendum

Motion by Ray Cunningham, second by Vern Zehr. Motion carried.

Approval of the November 4, 2008 Minutes

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by John Hoffman. Motion carried.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Old Business

Taylor Studios Schematic Design

The general consensus of the Committee is that everyone liked the central theme, sub-themes, and the storylines but were concerned about the traffic flow outlined in the bubble plan. Ray Cunningham expressed concern about the proposed circulation pattern. It essentially provided no direction. It was also noted that the foyer space, now that it will be enclosed, is too small for a kiosk. This space will hopefully be used for public presentations and announcements and placing a kiosk in the center of the room would limit the use of this area. The east wall – proposed for the civic engagement interpretation - will also have limited space. The township needlepoint will remain on this wall and this will impact the space available. The committee agreed that defining the traffic pattern now is critical.

Fundraising – Chinigo Foundation

Letters of intent to apply for 2009 funding from the Marajen Stevick Foundation are due December 31st. Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Cheryl outlined what has been received to date toward Lincoln exhibits and areas proposed in the grant not yet funded, specifically longer-term community impacts such as drawing attention to the democratic process on the local level, surveying citizen attitudes and expectations, and supporting local school initiatives related to citizenship.

Suggestions included:

- A computer against the wall at the end of the exhibit so visitors could log in as either a student or a visitor. Computer program and/or website to provide the context as well as pre- and post-visit activities.
- Person on TV answering most frequently asked questions like at the Presidential Museum or addressing pertinent subjects related to the exhibit.
- Creative handouts/brochures that students can take with them as a post-visit activity. It should bring the students into current events, i.e. a questionnaire that would complete to determine whether you could serve as a juror.

Barb Wysocki noted that this new area will be an adjustment for everyone in the courthouse so we want to make sure that we don't overwhelm them with too much activity. Rather than expanding our ideas, we need to do a few things well.

Committee members discussed developing the civic engagement component around who served on a jury then and who serves on a jury now. Learning tools should be developed around this focus. Anke stressed that these materials be offered in different languages as well. For the next meeting, Cheryl asked the committee to be thinking about ways to accomplish civic engagement without adding a whole new dimension to the application. Barb Wysocki suggested we could project out to future projects with ideas that are not feasible – or beyond our capabilities - this year.

Kent suggested acoustic baffles on the ceiling be included in the design to handle the noise of a full classroom in the area. Cheryl noted that the review of the next phase of exhibit development for the courthouse is scheduled for early January and it would be beneficial if all committee members were present.

Lincoln Updates

Barbara Wysocki reported that the courthouse dedication will be on August 29, in conjunction with the Sweet Corn Festival. This will include the opening of the clock and bell tower, the placement of the time capsule, and dedication of the Looking for Lincoln signs.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2009, 4:30 p.m. at the Urbana Free Library Conference Room. This may be changed to accommodate a review of the Design Development Phase.

Adjournment

Motion by Ray Cunningham, second by Anke Voss. Motion carried.