

LINCOLN EXHIBITS COMMITTEE
Urbana Free Library Conference Room
210 W. Green St., Urbana
Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting of the Lincoln Exhibits Committee was convened at 4:40 p.m. by Barbara Wysocki, committee Chair.

Roll Call

Committee members present: Kent Tucker, Ray Cunningham, Anke Voss, Kay Grabow, and Barbara Wysocki. Also present: Cheryl Kennedy and Barb Garvey of the Early American Museum.

Approval of the Agenda/Addendum

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Ray Cunningham. Motion carried.

Approval of the June 2, 2009 Minutes

Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Ray Cunningham. Motion carried.

Introduction of Christopher White as Forest Preserve Representative

In Chris White's absence, Barb Wysocki reported that he and Jerry Pagac had visited the exhibit and both were very impressed. She noted that Chris has had experience with the Ford Theater in Washington DC and thus is well familiar with the Lincoln story and would be an asset to the committee.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Old Business

Review of Developments and Events Since the Last Meeting

Barb Wysocki reported that the general reaction to the dedication was positive. The only negative comments she heard were that some people were disappointed they couldn't go up in the tower. Barb explained that accessibility was the major concern.

The media tour was successful with four different outlets represented which resulted in some pre-dedication publicity. In addition, a number of individuals have been provided the opportunity to see the exhibit and have provided constructive input related to opportunities and challenges. We also met with some teachers who had been a part of the pre-exhibit focus groups. They are very pleased with the end result and felt, with the curriculum developed through the American History Teachers' Collaborative and ideas shared with the District educators during our meeting, we have met their expectations.

Kent Tucker asked whether we had considered a locked box for donations. Cheryl noted that we need to get a counter installed to collect visitor numbers. Ray Cunningham asked about further promotion of

the exhibit itself. Barb Wysocki noted that one way to promote the exhibit may be through events like Law Day or Constitution Day. Ray asked about organized tours of the courthouse.

Update on EAM Lincoln Site

Barb Garvey encouraged the committee to come see the new construction – the Goose Pond Church, the photographer’s studio, B.F. Harris’ porch, and the tavern walls are all complete. The audio work is moving along nicely – Vern Zehr is B.F. Harris. The video is being done at Sand Creek Conservation Area in Decatur. The final issue to be resolved is the flooring. It must be something that can be easily removed in the future.

New Business

Election of Vice-Chair

The election of a vice chair was tabled until next month with full committee participation.

Discussion of Future Plans Regarding One or Both Sites

Barbara Wysocki shared an outline of proposed immediate, short-term and long-term goals. This outline included a computer kiosk, exhibit cases and panels to extend the visitor experience, and the events mentioned earlier. The outline was developed to demonstrate the potential beyond the object theater. Barbara also shared that the Bicentennial Commission has organized a committee to work on a podcast program focused on Lincoln in Urbana.

Cheryl Kennedy reported that the Looking for Lincoln Coalition needs a group to vet ideas that may be coming to them in the future. They believe the Lincoln Exhibits Committee would be the appropriate vehicle for them. As an example of this need, Barbara Wysocki reported on the presentation Dennis Roberts gave to the Bicentennial Commission on the elm tree in Urbana, said to be the site of a Lincoln speech. Ray Cunningham reported that Homer has another wayside they would like to develop as well.

Curriculum Development Discussion

Cheryl Kennedy reported that the American History Teachers’ Collaborative gave us money for secondary curriculum development. Chris Adrian was hired with these funds and the curriculum is on the museum website along with a link to the AHTC website featuring their Lincoln resource page and related elementary level curriculum. Many of these lesson plans were developed with the museum and the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Adjournment

Barbara Wysocki shared that she felt it was important for this committee to continue monthly meetings through 2009 and then consider every other month or quarterly meetings for 2010. The meeting was adjourned. Motion by Kent Tucker, second by Ray Cunningham. Motion carried. The regularly scheduled meeting is October 6, 2009.