

**Lincoln Exhibits Committee
Urbana Free Library, Conference Room
210 W. Green St., Urbana
Tuesday, August 7, 2007 – 4:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

The meeting of the Lincoln Exhibits Committee was convened at 4:30 by Barbara Wysocki, Committee Chair.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Barbara Wysocki, Kay Grabow, John Hoffman, Ray Cunningham, Kent Tucker, Anke Voss

Committee Members Absent: Vern Zehr

Also present: Cheryl Kennedy and Barbara Wysocki, Early American Museum

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Kent Tucker, second by Ray Cunningham. Motion carried.

Approval of July 24, 2007 Minutes

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

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

DVD Script Outline and Discussion

Barb Garvey distributed an outline she had developed for committee discussion. The categories included an overview of the Circuit, Champaign County Lincoln the Lawyer, Paving the Way to the Presidency, and Lincoln the Man. It was suggested that Lincoln the Man serve as the introduction. Committee members shared what they knew about why Lincoln chose to ride the circuit rather than stay in Springfield and that it might be good to raise this question in the section on the circuit. The segments may range between 5 to 8 minutes and to strive for 800 to 1,000 words per section. The Committee suggested using multiple narrators. Kay urged Barb to develop a beginning question for each of the sections. She also noted that images of newspaper articles is hard for children to read.

Timing of grant activities include: developing narrative, collecting images and completing interviews (with the help of WILL) through September or October; production during October, November, December; January, February video duplication and distribution. The completion date for this grant is March 31, 2008. The Committee asked Barb Garvey to begin developing the narrative and to touch base with Ray and John during the process.

Reflections and Follow-up to Presentation from Taylor Studios

Kent Tucker suggested making it an assignment that Committee members take the time to visit the exhibit just completed at Paxton. Other exhibits in this area include work on the 99th Pursuit Squadron at Chanute and the Anita Purves Center. None of these, however, would offer an example of the types of technology mentioned in their presentation. Kent Tucker volunteered to stop by Taylor Studios to see if they had a DVD that provide examples of their work with technology.

The Committee determined it was time to develop a request for proposal and suggesting they propose options. It will be important to develop an exhibit that represents Champaign County, using Champaign County images as much as possible. Ray agreed to write a project scope for the exhibit for the Committee to review, expand and amend. Kent suggested \$250,000 as the RFP figure. The Federal grants require a one to one match and the Committee will use the RFP to seek corporate sponsorship for the match. Barb Garvey will email Committee members the criteria for both IMLS and NEH. Cheryl will talk to Denny Inman about creating RFPs. The goal is to formally approve the RFP content at the September meeting. This information can then be used as the foundation for the grant application.

Teacher Planning Forum

Barb, Vern and Cheryl all agreed that we should approach Bryon Andreasen to be one of the Saturday presenters. His presentation for the Community Planning Workshop would be a perfect ending to the Teacher Planning Forum. For budget planning, Kay suggested we budget \$50.00 per day. She also talked about how the teachers value their resources. Kay will explore ideas for the resources we might include.

Fundraising Opportunities

Ideas were covered in the RFP discussion with the suggestion that the RFP also be used for fundraising.

Report on August 2nd Community Planning Conference in Springfield

On Thursday, August 2nd, Barb Wysocki, Vern Zehr and Cheryl Kennedy attended the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Community Planning Conference. Speakers included Tom Schwarz, Illinois State Historian, Bryon Andreasen, Presidential Library and Museum Historian, and Carolyn Brackett, National Trust for Historic Preservation and there was a presentation on "An Evening with President and Mrs. Lincoln" which was very well done. Most significant for us was the panel discussion that included participants from Lincoln, Danville, McLean County, Menard County, and Pittsfield. These communities have formed their own Bicentennial Committees and although they vary in scope, they each have some significant plans well in place. Some are celebrations, some commemorations and some legacy projects. This committee cannot stretch itself any further, however, Champaign County needs to get something established now. Barbara is scheduled to speak to the Municipal Intergovernmental Council to see if she can get this off the ground. Barb said she is making a list of events already established that could take on a new identity for this celebration.

Other Business

Barbara reported that Senator Durbin has reported that he has another \$500,000 to be placed toward the Wayside Exhibit Program. The Looking for Lincoln program is hoping this will allow them to fund all of the requests.

Looking for Lincoln staff and board have testified before Congress on the Lincoln Heritage Area. It seems to be moving in the right direction.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 4, 2007, 4:30 p.m. at the Urbana Library Conference Room.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted
Cheryl Kennedy, Recording Secretary