

Minutes of the October 26 meeting of the Lincoln Legacy Committee
(Minutes of the first half of the meeting were taken by Kay Grabow)

The October 26, 2022 meeting of the Lincoln Legacy Committee took place at 4:30 p.m. at the Champaign Public Library . Members present were Barbara Garvey, Barbara Wysocki, Eric Thorsland, Ray Cunningham, Shalini Smith and Kay Grabow. The agenda for the meeting was approved and seconded by Mr. Thorsland and Mr. Cunningham, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and seconded by Ms. Wysocki and Ms. Grabow. There were no attendees for public participation.

Under old business, Ms. Wysocki reported that 24 students from Tolono visited the Lincoln Exhibit and courtroom in September. They were well-prepared, and they were able to visit with one of the judges.

Mr. Thorsland reported the County Board has approved a line item for a few thousand dollars in its budget for the Lincoln Legacy Committee. He will get back to the group with the exact amount. Ms. Garvey has sent a white paper about the Lincoln Legacy Committee to the County Board.

Mr. Cunningham, Kent Tucker and Ms. Wysocki were present at the Urbana Free Library for the Archives Bazaar on Saturday, October 22. Lincoln bookmarks were distributed.

The Urbana Free Library will be starting an archives file for the Lincoln Legacy Committee, and it will include such items as grant proposals and memos of understanding for the courthouse exhibit.

Ms. Garvey has not yet contacted Jayne DeLuce of Visit Champaign County, but Ms. Wysocki suggested that she and Ms. Garvey meet with Ms. DeLuce soon to encourage Visit Champaign County to emphasize historical sites and activities in its promotions, and to start planning for meaningful countywide projects for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States. Ms. Wysocki stated that she hopes Ms. DeLuce could help facilitate the cooperation of countywide museums. Some possible meaningful projects are the re-do of the Lincoln Exhibit, the promotion of the African American history trail and the recognition of the Lincoln the Lawyer statue in Carle Park in Urbana and its connection to Judge J.O. Cunningham.

Ms. Garvey shared the new brochure she has created which highlights Lincoln sites and institutions which provide information about Lincoln in Champaign County. She offered 2 versions of the brochure, and discussion followed.

Ray Cunningham suggested that a DAR marker in a landscape replace the prairie picture in the original brochure, so that the photo could remain the larger size. Barb Wysocki suggested that we run the wording regarding the courthouse past the sheriff's office again as there is a new sheriff, and cell phones are now allowed in the courthouse. She also suggested it might be prudent to wait until after the elections, as there might be another sheriff.

The committee moved on to New Business. Barb Garvey distributed this year's In Kind-Matching Valuation Forms for Looking for Lincoln as well as the Blank Form for our annual report to the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Smith, Cunningham and Thorsland agreed to their estimate of hours for the Matching Valuation form; Barb Wysocki will determine how much time was spent in preparation for the Cunningham event. In filling out the annual report we agreed that our accomplishments were 1)the Cunningham event 2) the MGP Lincoln lecture series 3) the Lincoln interpreter at MGP. Barb Wysocki mentioned that Steve Beckett and Guy Fraker did a circuit tour and she would get hours from them. The Committee also agreed that our biggest challenge is replacing the courthouse exhibit whenever that might happen.

Barb Garvey distributed the Museum and Education Department of the CCFPD schedule of events through February, pointing out that MGP has two Lincoln lectures coming up, and a Lincoln program for kids on February 20, in addition to several other lectures and an escape room.

Ray Cunningham moved, Barb Wysocki seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.