

MINUTES Meeting September 27, 2023

Lincoln Legacy Committee
Busey Bank Conference Room
Champaign Public Library
200 West Green Street
Champaign IL 61820

1. Call to Order: Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey (Hereafter Barb O-G) called the meeting to order at 4:30. During the call to order Barb O-G asked for someone to take minutes as our Secretary has resigned. No one stepped forward. For this meeting, and following meetings Barb O-G will take minutes until another arrangement can be made.
2. Roll Call: Following Members were present: Barbara Wysocki, Kay Grabow, Ray Cunningham, Eric Thorsland, Adele Suslick, Pat Cain and Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey
3. Agenda: Eric Thorsland moved to approve the agenda, Ray Cunningham seconded. Agenda approved by voice vote.
4. Minutes from July 26, 2023. Barbara Wysocki moved to approve the minutes, Pat seconded. Minutes approved by voice vote.
5. Public participation. There being no public participation, meeting proceeded.
6. Old Business
 - a. General Updates and c. Abraham Lincoln National Heritage area updates were discussed in tandem.

-Barbara Wysocki updated the committee on school tours within the courthouse. The DAR flag display occurred in the courthouse in September as is usual, however this year it is being held over until October 13 so that a 3rd grade school tour might be able to see it.

-There will be another school tour in November with a homeschool group. They are interested, particularly in the mock trial aspect of the tours.

-Barb O-G reported that the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (ALNHA) is embarking on 2 projects in the near future. One has federal funding and will include a traveling exhibit about the Underground Railroad; the other has private (Union Pacific) funding in which the ALNHA will place new signage in the state to reflect the diversity of populations Lincoln's life and times affected. Barb asked for assistance with collecting Eastern Illinois stories about the Underground Railroad. Adele Suslick said that she had heard the Dunlap family was involved; Ray Cunningham added there is some talk about Danville's involvement. Ray will bring me more details. Barb Wysocki suggested that Angela Rivers and Barbara Suggs-Mason (of the African-American History Trail) might be good contacts as well.

-Pat Cain added that he would be working on the programming aspect of the Underground Railroad exhibit with the ALNHA. He also shared the MGP would be presenting their 16th annual Lincoln Lecture Series with the following talks already scheduled under the title *Voices of Our Past*.

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- Frederick Douglass, reenacted by Bob Davis, Sunday October 15 at 2 pm
- Ann Bradford Stokes, reenacted by Marlene Rivero, Sunday November 19 at 2 pm

Pat added that his staff is working on setting a date in December to present a talk with Kathryn Harris reenacting either Harriet Tubman or Elizabeth Keckley.

b. Suggestions made by Champaign County Museum Network for revision of the letter encouraging a 250th national celebration (125 for courthouse).

Barb Wysocki reported that there is broad awareness of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the country in the county already. She continued, in August, Barb O-G and Barb Wysocki attended the Champaign County Museums network (CCMN) meeting to get their input on the letter proposed to be sent to public officials. Barb Wysocki has since revised the letter according to their wishes however at their September meeting they did not get through their agenda and no movement has taken place. Wysocki proposed that the Legacy Committee work with the Champaign, Urbana, and Visit Champaign County group, while the CCMN send a letter to the outlying mayors. Barb O-G asked what Barb Wysocki's objection to sending to all was. Barb O-G suggested the letter needs signatories and that the CCMN group on all letters would add gravity to the request. She also suggested there could be two letters if necessary.

Adele Suslick suggested that we, as a committee are at the center of the county and as such could inspire the outlying communities.

Pat Cain thought that the CCMN would be good to have as backing but that their involvement may be minimal.

Barb Wysocki brought forward the idea of a united recognition of centennial farmers as a possible program, also Art in the Barn (a natural materials art show) as ways that outlying areas might be inspired to participate.

Kay Grabow suggested a public presentation to interested parties might be helpful in developing ideas and momentum for projects. Barb O-G said she would be happy to facilitate that if it became a desire of the committee.

Barb Wysocki noted that Spurlock would be hosting a program on Native Americans in the near future, and that the natural history of the area, and the peoples who have come before us should be a major part of this interpretation.

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Eric Thorsland asked if we would like any additional participation from the County Board for the 250th. Most committee members thought that was a good idea.

It was decided that the two Barbs would continue the discussion privately and determine a course of action for the letters.

Old Business,

d. Revising the By-Laws and new members

Barb Wysocki suggested Ryan Ross, who works out of Campbell Hall for the University of Illinois as head of their History and Traditions Program. Barb has had previous communication with him regarding the Lorado Taft Lincoln as Lawyer possible commemoration in 2027. Ray Cunningham said he would talk to Ryan.

Wysocki also said she would consider the Retired Teachers Association members as she is attending a meeting soon.

Barb O-G suggested Brian Adams, author of the Royer book and local architectural historian. Barb Wysocki noted that he would be speaking at this years Half Century Club celebration.

Kay Grabow suggested a former city council member from Urbana (she would research and send to committee)

Adele Suslick suggested people at the University whom she would send along to the committee.

Robert Morrissey was suggested by Ray Cunningham and Barb Wysocki.

Ray Cunningham said he did not know what the status of the Archives' search was, so he didn't know when we might expect to hear whether they would replace their member of the committee.

Barb O-G reminded the committee we need to replace Kent Tucker, and we also need to decide- eventually-if we add others that are not affiliated with an institution that we have to change the by-laws to accommodate that eventuality.

Pat Cain left the meeting at 5:15

e. Brochure Update

Barb O-G said she continues to work on the brochure update

New Business

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a. Dues to CCMN-Barb O-G gave Eric Thorsland the invoice for the CCMN membership for this year. He then reported that the budget time is coming up and that we would soon have close to 10,000 dollars in our budget, which would possibly assist with renovating the courthouse exhibit.

b. Celebrating Lincoln's speech at the courthouse (tabled due to lack of time)

c. Nomination of a secretary. Ray Cunningham agreed to keep recording the sessions of future meetings so that Barb O-G wouldn't have to write and lead the meeting. Cunningham is the interim secretary until a better solution is found.

d. Kent Tucker farewell

Kay Grabow suggested since he is downsizing maybe we shouldn't give him an object, but instead donate to honor him. Barb and Barb agreed that we would find something to propose to the committee by email before November 1.

8. Next meeting-Scheduled for November 29, 2023. All but Eric will be available as of today.

9. Adjournment -Ray Cunningham moved to adjourn, Adele Suslick seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:40