

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #14, April 19, 2005, 11:00 AM
Conference Room, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
Springfield, IL

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Darrel Bigham, Dr. Gabor Boritt, Senator Dick Durbin, Ms. Joan Flinspach, Mr. Harold Holzer, Dr. James Horton (on phone), Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., Congressman Ray LaHood, Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan, Hon. Tommy Turner, Hon. Frank Williams, Mr. Michael Bishop, Executive Director, and Ms. Jackie Williams, Development Officer. Congressional staff included Mr. Pat Souders from Senator Durbin's office, Ms. Diane Liesman and Ms. Joan Mitchell DeBoer from the Hon. Ray LaHood's office. The following members of the Advisory Committee attended this meeting: Ms. Marilyn A. Kreshak, Mr. Charles E. Fenwick, Dr. Cal Calabrese, Mr. Ernest Quintana, Mr. Paul B. Hartwig, Mr. Earl W. Henderson, Jr., Mr. Randy Westor, Dr. Cullom Davis, Dr. Wayne C. Temple, Mr. John Griswold, and Ms. Sandy Bruce. Others may have been present who did not have the opportunity to sign the attendance sheet. Mr. Jason Piscia, reporter for The State Journal-Register of Springfield was also present.

Senator Durbin called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. He asked that the Commissioners and guests introduce themselves. The minutes of the September 20, 2004, meeting were approved after a motion made by Chief Justice Williams seconded by Congressman LaHood.

Committee Reports

Mr. Bishop gave the Executive Director report. He noted the ALBC's participation in the Walt Whitman lecture. He has hired Jennifer Lapp Rosenfeld as a Project Manager. She will start work on May 4th. Mr. Bishop distributed her resume. He was asked what her job responsibilities were. He responded that she will administer details of projects and work directly with the committee chairs. Mr. Bishop noted that under the direction of the strategic plan, the Governance Committee would be meeting to review the membership of the Advisory Committee and work with staff to devise the best use of their skills. Dr. Horton added to Mr. Bishop's discussion of the OAH conference that he had received good feedback about the ALBC discussion from the teachers and professors attending.

Mr. Bishop stated that the commemorative coin legislation had been introduced to Congress. 500,000 coins will be produced and sold at \$1 per coin. Once this measure is approved by Congress, and the US Mint expenses and a percentage are recovered, the ALBC will begin to receive revenue. Updates on the Lincoln Penny legislation are listed in the attached Executive Director's report. Dr. Boritt requested that the Commissioners add Gettysburg to the list of places to be engraved on the back of the penny. The legislation currently lists Lincoln's places of residence (KY, IN, IL and DC) with the DC image being that of the uncompleted US Capitol dome which Lincoln completed during the Civil War despite criticism that the funds were needed for the war effort. Dr. Bandler responded that encouraging the Mint to agree to four separate images for the reverse of the penny had been tough and that adding an image might be difficult. Congressman

Jackson suggested that the three residences be placed on one coin, a second coin could feature the Emancipation Proclamation, a third coin include Gettysburg and a fourth coin depict an image from DC. Ms. Flinspach provided the information that themes such as the Emancipation Proclamation were discussed as best portrayed on the Lincoln stamps that will also be part of the Bicentennial. Senator Durbin read a copy of the bill and noted that the text of the bill is flexible enough that Gettysburg might be an image chosen after passage of the bill. Dr. Bigham suggested that Gettysburg could be considered for the commemorative coin image. Congressman LaHood moved that we retain the current legislation as it is and work to include Gettysburg and the Emancipation Proclamation images on either the stamps or the commemorative coin at a later date. Dr. Bigham seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Bishop next discussed our project with the Gilder Lehrman Institute (GLI). Updates are noted in the attached Executive Director's report. Discussion centered around GLI's offer to produce teacher packets sent to teachers throughout the nation. GLI will produce them up to the expense of \$250,000 and has asked that the Commission pay for distribution. Congressman Jackson urged Mr. Bishop to obtain the cost of distribution, and Senator Durbin recommended that then we approach the United States Post Office, Federal Express, United Parcel Service and others to donate this cost.

Mr. Bishop discussed the national traveling exhibit. The leading institution will be the Library of Congress. Destinations will include DC, Los Angeles (the Huntington Library) and a southern venue. Mr. Bishop expects to receive a budget in May or June. The ALBC will play a role in the substance and content of the exhibit. Mrs. Taper asked about artifact sources. Mr. Bishop added that individual collectors will be involved. Mrs. Taper stated that she would like to be involved. Ms. Flinspach noted that there are two exhibit opportunities, one with the Library of Congress whose collection is mainly document-based and one with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History that will be artifact-based. The Smithsonian's exhibit will travel to Chicago and is being created with the cooperation of the Chicago Historical Society.

Unfinished Business

Senator Durbin brought up the next item on the agenda—an art exhibit titled, *Portraying Lincoln: Man of Many Faces*. Mr. Holzer is familiar with the exhibit and expressed that he believed it to be extremely ambitious. Chief Justice Williams asked Mr. Holzer if he thought the exhibit would come to fruition, and Mr. Holzer stated that he believed that it would be difficult. Chief Justice Williams then moved that this item be tabled pending more concrete progress on the part of those submitting the proposal.

New Business

Senator Durbin opened the discussion of the Development contract bids. Mrs. Taper asked for what projects are we raising funds. Mr. Bishop answered that the projects are listed in the strategic plan—the national traveling exhibit and the documentary are the two most expensive items. Congressman Jackson recommended that we decide who on the Commission would be a point person, and if there were no volunteers, it would fall on the Co-Chairs. He recommended that the Metropolitan Group be asked the amount that

they have raised for past projects. Senator Durbin noted that we need to be sensitive to many concerns when making funding requests. Congressman LaHood asked if the Commissioners would be expected to fund raise. Mr. Bishop responded that Mrs. Taper was considering the Chairmanship of the Fund Raising Committee. Mr. Bishop stated that he believed the contract could be started by the end of April. At the conclusion of further discussion, Ms. Flinspach moved that the contract for the Metropolitan Group be accepted. Chief Justice Williams seconded the motion and it passed. Terms of the contract will be filed with the minutes.

Senator Durbin moved to the Branding Contract. Mr. Holzer commented that he thought the bids were high. Congressman Jackson asked why a new logo was needed. Ms. Flinspach stated that one cannot read the name, "Lincoln" in the logo. After further discussion, the Commissioners rejected all three bids and instructed Mr. Bishop to rebid the contract. This was done on a motion by Congressman LaHood, seconded by Chief Justice Williams. The motion passed.

Senator Durbin requested that Mr. Bishop update the Commissioners on the website. Senator Durbin recommended that Mr. Bishop have the website software amended so that we can track the number of hits to it. Mr. Bishop noted that the website will move in the future to enterprise level where greater interactivity can be achieved. Mr. Holzer distributed information from Dr. Allen Guelzo, a member of the Advisory Committee regarding his research on Abraham Lincoln and classical music. This was referred to the Public Participation Committee.

Future Business

The meetings in Philadelphia and in Lincoln City were noted. Dr. Bigham introduced Randy Wester, NPS Superintendent of the Lincoln Boyhood Home in southern Indiana. Mr. Wester offered the Commissioners a warm welcome.

Senator Durbin invited the members of the Advisory Committee in attendance to contribute to the meeting. Mr. Weinberg of the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop in Chicago asked where the funds from the commemorative coin would go. Mr. Bishop answered that first expenses and a percentage of the project went to the Mint, after that any proceeds would go the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Mr. Weinberg also urged the Commissioners to involve collectors in the celebration, especially to include them in exhibits. Mr. Quintana spoke on behalf of the National Park Service saying that this organization wants to be involved in the celebration as well. He indicated that many of the National Park Service facilities could be venues for the traveling exhibits. During the discussion of exhibit venues, Ms. Flinspach noted that panel traveling exhibits will also be available for sites that cannot meet the criteria for environmental controls and security. Senator Durbin urged that these panel exhibits travel to state fairs in addition to the venues already listed in the strategic plan. Mr. Griswold, a Conservator who owns his own business in the Los Angeles area, promoted the idea of an artifact database based on the Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS) project. Ms. Flinspach confirmed that such an idea has been discussed by the Commission and it will formally be submitted at the June meeting in Philadelphia. Mr. Holzer added the concept that C-SPAN could travel

nationally talking to curators of the various Lincoln Collections. Ms. Brue of the NPS Lincoln Birthplace in Hodgenville also welcomed the Commissioner's planning for the kickoff event on February 12, 2008. It will be held at the Birthplace. Ms. Krishak, Chair of the ALPLM Readiness Committee, enthusiastically greeted the Commissioners and offered the continued involvement of Springfield in future activities. Mr. Weinberg spoke on behalf of the Advisory Committee, noting their desire to stay involved in Commission activities.

Senator Durbin asked for a motion to adjourn and Chief Justice Williams so moved. Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach
Secretary