

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #27, Via Telephone
Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 2:00 p.m. EST

ATTENDANCE

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Darrel Bigham; the Hon. Jim Bunning; Mrs. Julie Cellini; the Hon. Richard Durbin; Ms. Joan Flinspach; Mr. Harold Holzer; Dr. James Horton; Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan; and the Hon. Frank Williams. ALBC staff present included Ms. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director; Mrs. Jennifer Rosenfeld, Deputy Director; Mr. David Early, Communications Director; Mr. Alan Kirschner, Development Director; Mr. David Morgan, Development; Ms. Sharon Cunningham, Finance Contractor; and Mr. V. Suresh, Administrative Assistant. Congressional staff included Ms. Diane Liesman and Mrs. Joan DeBoer from Congressman LaHood's office and Mr. Bill Beaver from Senator Bunning's office.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Mackevich opened the discussion with a statement about the Kentucky program which is [attached](#). Ninety tickets have been sold to date and there are 80 reservations from 26 states.

As far as the financial outlook for 2008 is concerned, Congressman LaHood has indicated that whether the Continuing Resolution remains in place or not, the earmark of an extra \$400,000 will probably not be forthcoming. We should hear from the Toyota request for \$1 million tomorrow (December 12, 2007). Word on the Tribune request for \$750,000 should come through any day. Former Congressman Bill Gray has put in a call to the Pew Charitable Trust and a request for \$1 million has been sent. Requests are also in at Prudential, John Deere, Yum Brands. Turn downs have been issued from J.P. Morgan Chase, Texaco and Allstate. The staff is sending or has sent 20 more requests.

CALL TO ORDER

At this point Mr. Holzer commented that this information parallels the Development and Executive Director's report and to avoid duplication, he suggested we call the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m. EST.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Holzer asked if there was any further financial information and Ms. Cunningham was asked to give the status of funds ([reports attached](#)). We owe the Library of Congress \$8,500 to date, which we will correct at the end of the Continuing Resolution. Our contract with Mr. Alan Kirschner has been paid through February from the Library of Congress Gift Fund. The Bank of America Gift Fund has \$44,000 designated for the Kentucky and Florida events.

MINUTES

Mr. Holzer asked for approval of the minutes from the November 6th meeting. Ms. Mackevich corrected them supplying the official name of the Illinois student business group which has been planning the virtual store, Illinois Business Consulting.

With that correction, Chief Justice Williams moved and Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Holzer requested that Ms. Mackevich continue with her report. She noted the impact of a Continuing Resolution on the Library of Congress exhibit. Mr. Holzer added that there will not be a catalog with the exhibit, but it will have a complimentary book authored by Joshua Shenk and Mr. Holzer. The book will be published by Bantam and is estimated to generate \$40,000 in income for the Library of Congress. It will also be the basis of the audio component of the exhibit. Lastly, Ms. Mackevich praised the support and assistance she has received from the Congressional staff for the IMLS grant which has been submitted.

Dr. Bandler had two questions: How can we as Commissioners help the staff in the amount of time left before the Kentucky events? Ms. Mackevich responded that everything that can be done is being done. Dr. Bandler asked for a status report on the Virtual Store. That information will be covered in the Communications Report.

REPORTS—Communications

Mr. Early gave the Communications Report ([attached](#)). He has asked the National Park Service to identify a point person that he can work with on the Kentucky events. Ms. Mackevich sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior about this issue and Mr. Early will follow up on it. The website has been transferred to the University of Illinois where it is now hosted.

Chief Justice Williams noted that he is fine tuning the contract with Event Networks. The store is starting up with no initial outlay to us and the percentage that we will capture per sale needs to be nailed down. Ms. Flinspach moved and Dr. Bandler seconded a motion to authorize the staff and the Chief Justice to conclude the contract without having to return to another meeting for a vote from the Commission. Motion carried. Mrs. Cellini will check with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Foundation regarding their percentage.

Mr. Early announced that he has a meeting with C-SPAN on December 21st regarding media coverage of the Kentucky events. C-SPAN will announce a high definition tour of Abraham Lincoln sites in January.

REPORTS—Public Programs

Mr. Holzer asked for the Public Programs Committee report next. Ms. Flinspach asked for questions or updates regarding the written report ([attached](#)). Ms. Mackevich referred to her memo sent out the same date as this meeting updating the Commissioners on the Kennedy Center event. Senator Durbin noted that he had sat in on a “fish or cut bait” meeting between the ALBC staff and the Kennedy Center staff. If we do not have \$500,000 in 60 days, we need to release our reservation date on the use of the Kennedy Center. Mr. Holzer asked about the Ford's Theatre event planned for February 12th. Ms. Mackevich stated that Ford's Theatre is not planning a public event for the 12th.

At this point, Ms. Flinspach had to leave the meeting. Dr. Bandler's notes are attached below.

After discussion of the meeting with the Kennedy Center, the suggested program, and the firm requirement of a one million dollar commitment with half a million within the next weeks, Senator Durbin noted that the Kennedy Center plan was not feasible; he moved that we release our reservation there, Dr. Bigham seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. It was agreed to search for another venue for the celebration.

Education Committee Report:

Dr. Bigham, Jennifer Rosenfeld, and Eileen Mackevich reported on the Education Committee work, noting work on the Howard conference, and pessimism regarding the Department of Education help with the Teach-Ins. Dr. Bigham moved and Mrs. Ryan seconded a motion to approve the endorsements of three Lincoln projects: the books Creative Breakthroughs in Leadership; Lincoln Legacy of Forbes House in Massachusetts; and Lincoln's America. These were approved unanimously.

Public Programs Committee Report:

Jean Bandler moved and Mrs. Cellini seconded the motion to approve the Public Program's endorsement of the Homer, NY celebration of Lincoln and native sons Carpenter and Stoddard. The motion passed unanimously.

To a motion by Mrs. Ryan and a second by Dr. Bigham, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ms. Joan L. Flinspach, Secretary and

Dr. Jean Bandler, Secretary Pro Tem