

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**  
**Meeting #31, Washington, D.C., U.S. Capitol, Mansfield Room**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 5:00 p.m. EDT**

**ATTENDANCE**

Commissioners present were Dr. Gabor Boritt; Ms. Joan Flinspach; Senator Richard Durbin; Congressman Ray LaHood; and the Hon. Tommy Turner. On the phone were: Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Darrel Bigham; Mrs. Julie Cellini; 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; Ms. Sharon Cunningham, Accounting; Courtney Barefoot, Programs Associate; Suresh Venkitaraman, Executive Assistant; Hasan Aloul, Programs Associate; Kelly Meade, Intern. Congressional staff included Ms. Diane Liesman and Mrs. Joan DeBoer from Congressman LaHood's office; Ms. Christina Mulka and Mr. Pat Souders from Senator Durbin's office. Guests included Ms. Luvenia George, Mr. Wilson Golden from the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Ms. Marty Sewell and Mr. Maurice Parrish from the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, and Ms. Phyllis Ellin from the National Park Service on the phone.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Turner conducted the meeting at the request of Senator Durbin and Congressman LaHood. He called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. Dr. Bandler moved the approval of the minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and Dr. Bigham seconded the motion. It passed.

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EXHIBIT**

Judge Turner turned to the business of the Library of Congress exhibit. Ms. Liesman announced that the funding was available and that the exhibit will travel to the locations originally designated—Chicago, Atlanta, Indianapolis and possible locations on both coasts. Dr. Horton has encouraged using the interest and marketing capacity of Disney to augment the exhibit's promotion. Mr. Rick Rothschild of Disney is willing to meet with the staff of the Library of Congress. Mrs. Cellini also recommended Mr. Rothschild. Chief Justice Williams, Mrs. Ryan, Ms. Flinspach and Ms. Machevich added their support to this concept. The staff at the Library of Congress will be informed. Senator Durbin announced (although not for public release) that Union Pacific will fund the Library of Congress exhibit at \$1.2 million.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Ms. Cunningham gave the Finance Report at Judge Turner's request. [It is attached.](#) She announced that the National Park Foundation ALBC Gift Fund has been spent and closed. No more reports will be given from that entity. For the Kentucky donor list, the Thanksgiving Day mailing list and the Commissioners' mailing lists only changes in these reports will be included in the future. Ms. Flinspach moved and Dr. Bigham seconded a motion for approval of the Finance Report. It passed.

**DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Judge Turner asked Mr. Kirschner to give the Development Report. [It is attached.](#) He expressed appreciation of former Congressmen Kemp and Gray. The entire team's efforts have

been productive and we are moving forward. Ms. Machevich added appreciation of the efforts and announced that Ms. Soman will be hosting another Florida event as an ALBC fund raiser.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judge Turner moved on to the Executive Director's report. Ms. Machevich noted the written report [that is attached](#). Ms. Flinspach requested confirmation that the contents of Lincoln's pockets will still be in the Library of Congress exhibit. Ms. Machevich so stated and also noted that the Communications Committee Report included more information about the website.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee—Judge Turner asked for the committee reports beginning with the Communications Committee. [The report is attached](#). Mr. Early announced that Mr. Aloul has joined the ALBC staff as Programs Assistant. He will work closely with David Early on the website, communications and marketing projects. He is working with the State Liaisons to put together a national calendar of events. Mr. Early brought attention to the timeline for the Commemorative Book. Judge Turner gave the Commissioners an update on the Commemorative Coin. Senator Durbin moved and Congressman LaHood seconded a motion to unveil this coin at the November 2008 Gettysburg event. This motion passed. In his report Judge Turner stated that the ALBC needs to demonstrate that it has raised a match of the funds generated by the sale of the coin. This could be as much as \$5,000,000. In-kind donations will not meet the criteria for a match, cash receipts only can be used to match. Ms. Cunningham is tracking our total non-appropriated cash receipts for this purpose.

Public Programs Committee—Mrs. Rosenfeld presented this report at the request of Judge Turner. [It is attached](#). Monday, September 22, 2008 is the date of the Lincoln Poetry Evening. Ms. Flinspach asked if there were travel funds available for Commissioners for this event. There are not, unless there is a Commission meeting. Congressman LaHood suggested that we consider a Commission meeting around this event. Mrs. Rosenfeld reviewed the February 2009 activities and responded to Dr. Bandler that the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee included the MOLLUS group. Ms. Flinspach [requested a list of the February 2009 events](#). Mrs. Cellini announced a possible collaboration with the Illinois ALBC on a Betty Crocker cake mix for Lincoln's favorite cake. Talks are underway. Fund raising for the Town Hall events will focus on the cities where the events are held, now that the Pew Charitable Trust has declined to fund this series as a national program. Congressman Jackson is assisting with this project.

Education Committee—Judge Turner asked Dr. Bigham to review the Education Committee Report. He noted that the OAH Partnership also includes an award to Master's degree and PhD candidates for Lincoln scholarships. He also noted the distribution of 1,000 extra copies of the most recent Lincoln themed OAH Magazine of History to various Lincoln entities.

#### ENDORSEMENTS

Ms. Flinspach noted Dr. Bigham's concern that the Education Committee review endorsement (e) and moved that all of the Public Program projects be endorsed with the exception of project (e). Dr. Boritt seconded the motion. Mrs. Cellini recused herself from

endorsement of project (d). [See attachments](#). Dr. Bandler noted that two of the projects are for-profit projects. Mrs. Rosenfeld explained that the Commissioners had approved several other for-profit projects including publications. Ms. Flinspach agreed. After discussion, the motion was approved.

Mrs. Rosenfeld then addressed the Public Program endorsement request omitted from the previous motion, (e) *The Life of Abraham Lincoln* painting by Thomas Kennedy, submitted by Lincoln Legacy LLC. She stated that the staff directed this project to the Public Programs Committee because the request was for endorsement of the artwork. Dr. Bigham stated that this is not evident in the application. Mrs. Rosenfeld had had subsequent communication from the requestors indicating this. (None of this was indicated in the material submitted for commission review. Dr. Bigham stated that this project should be reviewed by the Education Committee because on the endorsement application the requestor had checked Educational under Type of Applicant. Mrs. Rosenfeld indicated that the applicant had also checked Other for Type of Applicant. Mrs. Rosenfeld asked how the Education Committee could review this project for endorsement when there was no educational component submitted. Dr. Bigham stated that this was submitted as an education project. Part of the application included reference to future review details, none of which were provided. [Dr. Bigham stated that all applications should be thoroughly documented and that support essays need to be detailed.](#) Ms. Flinspach suggested and then moved that as a compromise, the Public Programs Committee's endorsement of the artwork stand and if an educational component was submitted, then that portion would go to the Educational Committee for endorsement review. Dr. Boritt seconded this motion and Dr. Bigham objected as no previous application had been treated this way. After further discussion Judge Turner ruled Ms. Flinspach's motion out of order. Ms. Flinspach then moved that the Commissioners vote on the endorsement of this project as it was presented. Dr. Boritt seconded this motion. [The vote was taken and Judge Turner ruled the motion carried \(after an inquiry Judge Turner stated the vote count was 4 in favor, 3 opposed\).](#)

Judge Turner asked Dr. Bigham for presentation of the Education Committee's endorsement requests. Dr. Bigham moved the endorsement of all of the Education Committee projects and Ms. Flinspach seconded the motion which carried.

#### FURTHER BUSINESS

Judge Turner asked if there was further business to come before the Commission. Ms. Flinspach announced that after her current position ended on June 30<sup>th</sup> that she as a Commissioner would be volunteering to help with some fund raising and other projects.

Judge Turner asked for other business, there being none, Mrs. Ryan moved for adjournment and Dr. Boritt seconded the motion. It carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach  
Secretary