

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Meeting #32
Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, Jefferson Building, Whitall Pavilion
Monday, September 22, 2008, 2:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Darrel Bigham; Dr. Gabor Boritt; Mrs. Julie Cellini (on phone); Ms. Joan Flinspach, Mr. Harold Holzer; Dr. James Horton; Congressman Ray LaHood; the Hon. Tommy Turner; and the Hon. Frank Williams (on phone). ALBC staff present included: Ms. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director; Mrs. Jennifer Rosenfeld, Deputy Director; Mr. David Early, Communications Director; Ms. Sharon Cunningham, Accounting; Courtney Barefoot, Program Associate; Suresh Venikitarman, Executive Assistant; Hasan Aloul, Program Associate; and Lauren Maxwell, Intern. Congressional staff included Ms. Diane Liesman and Mrs. Joan DeBoer from Congressman LaHood's office; Ms. Sarah Timoney from Senator Bunning's office; Ms. Theresa Caldwell from Congressman Jackson's office. Guests included: Mrs. Jean Soman from the Abraham Lincoln Foundation, Mrs. Polly Bigham, Mr. Robert Willard from the Lincoln Group of DC, Ms. Phyllis Ellin from the National Park Service, Ms. Lynne Scheib from the State Department, and Mr. Martin Manning from the State Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Holzer chaired the meeting and called it to order at 2:35 p.m. Dr. Bandler moved the approval of the April 9th minutes and Congressman LaHood seconded the motion. It carried.

FINANCE REPORT & BUDGET NARRATIVE

Budgets

Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Mackevich to give the Finance Report. Ms. Mackevich asked Ms. Cunningham to present the information in the attached report. Ms. Cunningham reviewed the attached budgets for various scenarios-including a Continuing Resolution. Congressman LaHood reported that a Continuing Resolution would probably pass this week. He will email Ms. Mackevich and she will inform the Commissioners. Dr. Bigham asked if travel funds could carry over from the first part of the year to the second, if they were not exhausted in the first part of the year. Ms. Cunningham informed the Commissioners that travel funds could carry over.

Gift Funds

Ms. Cunningham then reviewed the current status of on-hand funds. The Library of Congress Gift Fund will increase by \$15,000. This increase is a deposit from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund the poetry evening. The NEA and the Library of Congress are both governmental agencies, so the deposit is required to be an interagency transfer, hence the need to place the funds in our LOC Gift Fund. The

Abraham Lincoln Foundation Gift Fund report is attached and Ms. Cunningham distributed an updated report attached to the minutes which shows the balance of all gift funds-National Park Foundation Fund, LOC Gift Fund, and ALBC Foundation Fund at \$735,948. She also explained that the ALBC Foundation funds have been transferred from Bank of America to PNC Bank due to a lack of service from Bank of America. Ms. Mackevich publicly thanked Mrs. Jean Soman for her sponsorship of the Miami event, Lincoln and the Jews, and for her service on the ALBC Foundation board. The Commissioners concurred and added their thanks. Judge Turner asked if the in-kind contribution from this event could be used toward funding our match for the commemorative coin. Ms. Cunningham said that in-kind donations cannot be used to match.

Projects

Lastly Ms. Cunningham asked for questions regarding the individual project budgets. After a question on the Lincoln Bicentennial Poster, Ms. Mackevich asked Mrs. Rosenfeld to update the Commissioners. Mrs. Rosenfeld showed the Commissioners the mock-up poster and informed them that the United States Postal Service had requested 250,000 posters which it will send to schools throughout the country, contributing the postage. We will need \$26,000 more than the proposed budget to accommodate this. Ms. Mackevich asked Commissioners for names of potential sponsors. Target and General Mills were suggested. Mr. Holzer suggested that logo space could be permitted to attract a sponsor. Congressman LaHood urged Ms. Mackevich to contact the Government Printing Office and inform them of the USPS request and suggest that the Printing Office could match the USPS offer with in-kind printing. Ms. Mackevich said a letter will be sent. For the Statuary Hall event, Ms. Cunningham stated that appropriated funds can be used for all but the refreshments. Ms. Mackevich noted Speaker Pelosi's enthusiasm for this event and believes that a sponsor can be found. Ms. Mackevich noted that the April 12th Lincoln Memorial and Naturalization Ceremony budget will grow due to the expectation that crowds will be much larger than anticipated. Mr. Holzer noted the shortfall on the Howard University Conference and Ms. Mackevich said that she is working with Howard University to find the funds. As a further update, the State Department has taken an interest in the Lincoln and Juarez program and will cover sending this program to Mexico and the cost of its return to the U.S. Ms. Flinspach added that in an overall review of the project budgets when Ms. Mackevich came on board we needed to raised millions and under her skillful leadership along with the support of Senator Durbin, Congressman LaHood, Mr. Kemp and Mr. Gray, we are down to needing \$199,500 to completely fund our projects as budgeted.

ALBC FOUNDATION

Mr. Holzer referred to the agenda and asked Congressman LaHood to discuss the ALBC Foundation. Congressman LaHood reviewed the attached material. Dr. Bigham raised a question regarding the payout schedule of the commemorative coin funds and Mr. Early noted the chart included in the report. Mrs. Cellini asked after the first 50% is received, how the balance is distributed. Mr. Early stated that the final amount will come in at the

time of the program close-out. Mr. Holzer asked if more foundation board members could be added at a later date. Congressman LaHood stated that changes can be made. Dr. Bandler recommended that the foundation board establish by-laws stating the procedures for the number of meetings and board members, etc. Congressman LaHood agreed that bylaws will need to be established. He moved that the current foundation board members of Mr. Jack Kemp, Mrs. Jean Soman, Dr. Orville Vernon Burton, Mr. Charles Scholz and possibly Mr. Bill Gray be confirmed for three-year terms, and that the foundation be formally designated as the recipient of funds from the Commission. Chief Justice Williams seconded this motion. It carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Holzer called on Ms. Mackevich for her report. She cited the attached document. She thanked Dr. Boritt for his assistance with the first Town Hall which will be part of the Gettysburg activities this November. Regarding the sale of items at the NPS Lincoln Memorial concert, Mr. Early passed around a mock-up of the bumper stickers that are being produced. Ms. Mackevich added that she has been in touch with the Gandhi Foundation in India. This foundation is interested in funding a Lincoln Bicentennial program in Delhi and Mumbai. Dr. Horton informed the Commission that thanks to the Hawaii Endowment for the Humanities, an entire series of programs is planned. He asked that a letter from the staff be sent to thank the Hawaii Endowment for the Humanities for their support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

Mr. Holzer asked Mr. Early to present this committee's report. Mr. Early reviewed the additions to the website and success of the sale of items on eBay. He noted the unprecedented commitment of C-SPAN and asked Ms. Ellin about the issues regarding taping at the Lincoln Memorial. Ms. Ellin reported that C-SPAN and the NPS are talking about these issues. Mr. Early stated that coverage of the penny unveiling this morning included NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, among others. Outside of the attached report, Mr. Early asked for input on the USPS proposal to virtually release the stamp design or host a joint event with the unveiling of the commemorative coin in Gettysburg. Congressman LaHood spoke against both plans. He believed that the commemorative coin and the stamp drew two different audiences and that a virtual unveiling would not garner enough publicity. Mr. Holzer explained the difference between a stamp unveiling and the First Day of Issue ceremony. He suggested that if Mr. Early went back to the USPS, citing the publicity received today during the unveiling of the penny designs, they might change their minds. Congressman LaHood agreed and added that Mr. Early should tell them to find a date for an unveiling between Election Day and Thanksgiving. Mr. Early also raised the question of the location of the First Day of Issue ceremony. The ALBC stamp committee has recommended three different sites in DC. The USPS has recommended Springfield, IL and Lincoln, NE has also made an appeal to host the ceremony. Dr. Bandler expressed the subcommittee's view that while it might not be fitting to the

ceremony in Illinois, Lincoln is the president of us all so DC is most appropriate. The consensus of the Commission was to have this event in DC. Mr. Early will inform the USPS of the Commission's decision. It was also suggested that individual cities might have their own ceremonies, but the major event should be in DC.

Public Programs Committee

Mr. Holzer started this committee report by summarizing an earlier Executive Session held by phone. In this session, the decision was made to forego a birthday gala as a separate event and instead to urge the new President to host a Presidential Event as the birthday celebration on or as close to February 12th as possible. If this request to the new President is denied, then our fallback position will be that the opening of the Lincoln-Douglass play at Lincoln Theater in DC on February 20th (close to Presidents' Day) will become the birthday gala. Dan Weinberg, one of the Advisory Committee members, has urged a simulcasting of events on February 12th. Mr. Holzer told him that if he can raise the funds to do this, it will happen. Mr. Holzer will let us know of Mr. Weinberg's progress. Mrs. Cellini noted that the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Illinois ALBC have joined forces for a dinner in Springfield the evening of February 12th and that they have invited both Illinois senators to speak. Lastly, Ms. Mackevich announced that the ALBC has the funding from the Fetzer Institute to hire a coordinator for the Town Halls. Ten of these meetings are funded and requests have been sent to raise the funds to host more.

Education Committee

Mr. Holzer asked Dr. Bigham to present the attached report for the Education Committee. Dr. Bigham cited the written report. It was augmented today by the addition of a copy of the certificate to be awarded to Lincoln Legacy Schools. Mr. Holzer suggested that the design of the certificate could follow the design of the school posters. As a part of our Organization of American Historians partnership, Dr. Bigham asked the Commissioners to select two persons to jointly review the graduate work and choose the winners of the Higher Education Awards. Dr. Mackey of the OAH will chair this ad hoc committee. The Commissioners recommended that Dr. Bigham and Dr. Horton serve on this committee. Dr. Horton declined and Dr. Bigham tried to decline, but was overruled by the Commission. He will select another committee member from the Advisory Committee. At this point, Judge Turner left to catch his plane.

ENDORSEMENTS

Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Flinspach to review the Public Program endorsement requests. Dr. Bandler moved that the all of the endorsement requests except #2, 3, 7 of Public Programs and #18, and 25 of the Education Committee be endorsed. Dr. Horton seconded this motion and it carried. Ms. Flinspach asked that the issues surrounding Public Programs endorsement requests #2, 3, and 7 be presented. Dr. Bigham noted that he had the same question regarding the Education Committee endorsement requests. No discussion was raised. Mr. Holzer requested discussion again to ensure that objections could be discussed. No one objected and Chief Justice Williams moved and Ms.

Flinspach seconded the motion that the 5 endorsement requests removed from the previous motion now be approved. The motion carried.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Chief Justice Williams presented a request for licensing from the Henry Rifle Company that could generate \$65,000 in revenue for the ALBC. The Licensing Committee which he chairs voted 2 to 1 in support of recommending this partnership to the Commission. The details of this request are spelled out in a memo attached to the material for this meeting. Mr. Holzer stated that questions were in order. Ms. Flinspach asked if the Commission approved this, could Mr. Early work with the company to avoid advertisements that were negative about museums. Both Chief Justice Williams and Mr. Early believed that this issue could be overcome. Ms. Flinspach noted that this licensure would not only provide income but the opportunity to teach to the prevalence of weaponry in the 19th century and the even more massive distribution that occurred with the end of the war, as thousands of soldiers from both sides left the military with their army-issued rifles in hand. She also noted that this kind of limited-edition special-issue rifle is purchased most often by gun collectors for display, not necessarily for use. Chief Justice Williams moved and Dr. Boritt seconded a motion that this licensure is entered into by contract. The motion carried 6 to 3. The nay votes were from Dr. Bandler, Mrs. Cellini, and Dr. Bigham.

Mr. Holzer asked if there was further business and Dr. Bandler asked that the Governance Committee come to the next meeting with a policy recommendation regarding Commissioners and honoraria. Mr. Holzer noted that that request will be an agenda item for the next meeting at Gettysburg in November. He asked for a motion to adjourn and Chief Justice Williams and Dr. Bigham so moved. We adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach, Secretary