

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Meeting #37
University of Illinois, Urbana, Champaign, Illinois
Sunday, October 25, 2009, 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Gabor Boritt (on phone); Ms. Joan Flinspach; Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan (on phone); the Hon. Tommy Turner (on phone). Abraham Lincoln Foundation Board members present included: Dr. Vernon Burton; Mr. David Lawrence (on phone); Mr. Charles Scholz; Mrs. Jean Soman (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; Ms. Courtney Barefoot, Program Associate; Ms. Theresa Caldwell, Town Hall Coordinator; and Mr. Venkitaraman Suresh, Administrative Assistant. Guests included: Mr. Simon Appleford, Graduate Student at the University of Illinois; and Mr. Herbert Lowe, Final Report author.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Bandler chaired the meeting and called it to order at 11:18 a.m. She asked to rearrange the agenda, moving all of the action items to the beginning of the meeting. There were no objections. Minutes from the April 13th meeting were approved after a motion by Judge Turner, seconded by Dr. Boritt. The July 21st meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Judge Turner seconded by Dr. Boritt.

FINANCE REPORT

Dr. Bandler asked Ms. Cunningham to give the Finance Report. In addition to the [attached](#) report, Ms. Cunningham added that she has been informed that the City of Washington is paying the honoraria for *Sweet Honey In The Rock* at the April Lincoln Memorial event. She noted that 85% of our donors gave \$1000 or less and that 31% donated \$100 or less. Ms. Flinspach moved and Mrs. Ryan seconded a motion that the appropriated funds budget included as the last page of the Finance report, be approved. It passed. Dr. Bandler asked about the match from the sale of the Commemorative Coin and it will be approximately \$2,000,000 which will go into the Abraham Lincoln Foundation. Judge Turner moved and both Dr. Boritt and Mrs. Ryan seconded a motion that the staff be commended for their work. All Commissioners and Foundation Board members agreed. The motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Mr. Early turned the Communications Report over to Dr. Burton. Dr. Burton focused his report on the action item of accepting the University of Illinois as our web host site. He asked for questions, and spelled out the terms he has requested from the University for the MOU—1/2 time person, etc. Ms. Mackevich stated that Chief Justice Williams has reviewed the legal aspects of the tentative MOU. Ms. Flinspach moved that the terms of the MOU be worked out as per the direction on page 3 of the Communications Report. Judge Turner seconded the motion. During discussion Dr. Bandler asked that the motion be amended to include seeking out all other appropriate websites for relationships. Ms. Flinspach so amended her motion and the motion was approved as amended.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Dr. Bandler raised the topic of future meetings reminding the Commissioners that the January meeting in Los Angeles, California, has already been approved. Congressman Jackson had submitted a memo ([attached](#)) requesting consideration of a final meeting in April in Washington, D.C. Mr. Holzer had asked the Commissioners to consider a meeting in NYC in connection with the Cooper Union event there at the end of February. Ms. Flinspach asked if the budget allowed for an extra meeting in NYC. Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Mackevich both advised that this could be done. Dr. Bandler reminded the Commissioners that they had agreed to leave an excess in the budget to be returned to Congress and to demonstrate our commitment to keep expenditures low. Ms. Flinspach responded that there can be issues which might need our attention in February and scheduling a meeting would be good planning. If the meeting is not needed, it can be cancelled. Ms. Flinspach moved that a meeting be planned for February and for April and Judge Turner seconded the motion. It passed with Dr. Bandler's abstention. The Commission also agreed by consensus to endorse, but not support financially, the Cooper Union event. At this point Dr. Boritt left the meeting for a previous engagement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Bandler requested that Ms. Mackevich present any additions to her report. She welcomed Mr. Lawrence to the Abraham Lincoln Foundation board. Ms. Flinspach asked Ms. Mackevich to review the qualifications required by law to become an AL Foundation board member since it is an operating 501(c)3. Ms. Mackevich explained that an operating nonprofit must raise its operating budget annually, thus Foundation Board members will be required to get or give a percentage of the total operating budget annually. It was noted that all operating foundations set board member contribution minimums; the ALBC Foundation will review its requirements. *Note: contribution minimums typically range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.* Ms. Mackevich explained that there were other vehicles available to volunteers who do not have or have access to the funds required for board membership. There will be an editorial board that will contribute to the website content and a group of scholarly advisors.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS REPORT

Mrs. Rosenfeld updated her written report ([attached](#)) with the news that over 100 people attended the event at the Chicago History Museum, *Abraham Lincoln and the American Dream*. Both it and the *Lincoln and Juarez: In Myth and Memory* events were recorded and will be available via our website.

EDUCATION REPORT ([ATTACHED](#))

Ms. Flinspach praised the staff and the Education Committee members for their hard work. There was no update so the written report stands.

TOWN HALLS REPORT

Ms. Caldwell updated the [attached](#) written report noting that an interview with John Pepper is available to view on our website as well as Dr. Burton's remarks made at the Atlanta Town Hall. These programs are acquiring a life of their own. The Fetzer Institute may agree to

partially fund the requests from almost all of the cities to follow up their Town Hall meetings with a vehicle to implement the recommended changes.

FINAL REPORT

Dr. Bandler encouraged the Commissioners to review the outline for the final report included in the meeting packets and send comments to Mr. Lowe, Mr. Holzer, and Dr. Bigham. Mr. Lowe thanked the Commissioners for this opportunity. Ms. Flinspach requested that evaluations measure not only accomplished activities, but also include the impact or change affected by these accomplished activities. Mr. Lowe noted that his job was only to chronicle, not to evaluate.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bandler asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Flinspach moved and Judge Turner seconded a motion. It passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach, Secretary