

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Meeting #38
The Beverly Wilshire Hotel, La Fiesta Room
9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Saturday, January 16, 2010, 3:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners present were Dr. Jean Bandler; Dr. Darrel Bigham (on phone); Mrs. Julie Cellini (on phone); Ms. Joan Flinspach; Mr. Harold Holzer; the Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr.; Mrs. Louise Taper; and the Honorable Frank Williams. Abraham Lincoln Foundation Board members present included: Dr. Vernon Burton; Mr. Charles Scholz; and 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; Mr. Hansan Aloul, Program Associate (on phone); Ms. Theresa Caldwell, Town Hall Coordinator; and Mr. Venkitaraman Suresh, Administrative Assistant. Guests included: Mr. Herbert Lowe, Final Report author; and Mr. Ned Bandler, husband of Dr. Jean Bandler.

LOS ANGELES TOWN HALL MEETING REPORT

Mr. Holzer called on Ms. Caldwell, Mrs. Mackevich, and Mrs. Taper to announce the details of the Los Angeles Town Hall to be held tomorrow. Ms. Caldwell stated that the format consisted of one large panel and listed the panel members ([program attached](#)). The panelists will respond to questions from Mr. Stedman Graham, the moderator. The audience will be invited to participate in a Question-and-Answer session following the panel presentations. Lastly, Dr. Harry Jaffa, a Lincoln author and historian, will be interviewed by Dr. Tom Schwartz, Illinois State Historian. Mrs. Taper and Mr. Holzer will welcome those attending. It will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and over 300 have responded. Wells Fargo is hosting a reception. The program will be videotaped for later production. Mr. Holzer thanked the Fetzer Institute, Ms. Caldwell, Mrs. Taper, and Congressman Jackson. Ms. Mackevich added thanks to Mr. Jack Kemp for initializing the Town Halls through funding. Congressman Jackson agreed that his leadership had been essential.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Holzer called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He called for approval or corrections to the minutes of October 25, 2009. Dr. Bandler moved and Chief Justice Williams seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed. ([All written reports cited will be attached.](#)) Mr. Holzer then thanked Ms. Flinspach for her recording of the minutes over the years and insisted that she note this praise in the minutes.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Cunningham to give the Finance Report. She noted that in previous years any unspent Appropriated Funds carried over into the next year but that will not occur in 2010 because the Commission sunsets. The 2010 Appropriated Funds budget is an annual budget. She reported that we will be under budget on salaries due to the resignation of Mr. Bryan Jack. These funds may be allocated elsewhere within the Appropriated Funds budget as needed. Ms. Flinspach asked about “stay back” or retention awards for the staff. Ms. Mackevich will investigate this. Congressman Jackson asked that consultants be included in these awards. The Commission agreed by unanimous consensus to retention awards for staff and consultants. Ms. Cunningham noted that Ruzicka & Associates, Ltd. would audit ALBC Gift Funds. Dr. Bandler asked if any funds raised in 2010 would be eligible for the Commemorative Coin match. Ms. Cunningham stated that they would. She then reviewed the Gift Fund accounts. Under the Foundation’s expenses, a \$75,000 expenditure is pending the issuance of a contract for web site support. Under the budget for the ALBC Wrap-Up Event on April 19, 2010, the contract for the program production, film and promotion will be competitive. Ms. Cunningham asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Holzer asked if the printing of the final report was included in the budget. Ms.

Cunningham noted that it was under the Appropriated Funds budget. The budget was approved by consensus. Ms. Flinspach asked for a recap of the 7th Circuit event. Ms. Mackevich recounted it for the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Mackevich to review her report. She praised the staff and consultants who have worked dedicatedly for the Commission and Abraham Lincoln. In their last staff meeting they discussed the role of public/private partnerships and urged that the importance of these be recorded in the final report. She updated her written report announcing that the program on Lincoln, Gandhi, Nehru and nation building is scheduled for March 6th through the 13th near the city of Ahmedabad, India. The Indian media are calling for details now, before all of the arrangements are known.

Ms. Mackevich continued her report noting that the Town Halls had raised the consciousness of the leaders of the various cities and urged the continuation of the work they revealed. The Morrill Conference initiated (among other actions) a rededication to the study of agriculture internationally.

Mr. Holzer concluded the report with praise for Ms. Mackevich who "rescued a foundering organization" and made it successful. Dr. Bandler echoed his praise.

Dr. Bandler also noted and amplified the last paragraph of Ms. Mackevich's report in which she asks Commissioners to be helpful to staff in their job searches.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Final Report—Mr. Holzer turned to Mr. Lowe and Ms. Mackevich for an update on the Final Report. Mr. Lowe lauded the staff for the tremendous amount of research they performed. Ms. Mackevich stated that all Commissioners should have a copy of the report in their possession. Dr. Bigham chairs the committee overseeing this report and he requested that edits come to him quickly. After much detailed discussion, it was recommended by Congressman Jackson that edits by Commissioners go to Ms. Mackevich by the end of the day, Friday, January 22, 2010. He recommended that consideration be given to what is in the report, but that it also be given to what is NOT in the report. Mr. Holzer repeated the Congressman's emphasis on missing information. After Friday, January 22nd, the editorial calendar for the Final Report will resume as originally presented in a memo dated January 12th and distributed to those at the meeting. (attached) Other changes included the ALBC meeting on Feb. 26th will be by phone, only the Final Report Committee will participate, and this call will take place on Friday, February 26th. Mr. Lowe concluded by stating that Commissioners must voice their edits to staff by Friday, January 22nd or forever hold their peace.

Public Programs Report—Mr. Holzer asked Mrs. Rosenfeld to review this report. In addition to this written report, Mrs. Rosenfeld noted that over 150 people attended the event at the National Museum of Mexican Art and that products from this program will also include a mini-website. The website will be geared to a younger audience and will examine the lives of Lincoln and Juarez through a digital version of a comic book or a graphic novel. This graphic novel will also be a useful teaching tool for people learning English as a second language.

Education Report—Dr. Bigham presented this report. He noted that the Education Committee was an effective large group that met for seven years. He also thanked Mrs. Rosenfeld and had no additions to the written report.

Town Halls Report—Mr. Holzer asked for any information about the Town Halls not included in the written report. Ms. Mackevich thanked the Fetzer Institute for their generous funding which, among other costs, enabled video recording of each Town Hall. This material will be edited and transformed into a teaching tool. Ms. Flinspach expressed the hope that the work of the Town Halls will continue. She believes that the Fetzer Institute would be willing to fund future projects. Dr. Bandler thanked all for this work that deepens and broadens the purpose of the ALBC. Mrs. Soman added her desire that the Foundation will continue the Town Halls.

ALBC Website Update—Mr. Holzer requested this update from Dr. Burton. Dr. Burton announced that despite the hiring freeze at the University of Illinois, the new Chancellor waived this limitation and signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the ALBC Foundation which included the hiring of a webmaster to augment and maintain the website. He wants to eventually include the other webhosts who desired to partner with us. On another note, he presented an Organization of American Historians lecture and directed the honorarium to the ALBC Foundation Town Hall fund. Ms. Mackevich and Mrs. Soman extended their appreciation to the University of Illinois for hosting the website. ?????????? thanked Congressman Jackson for his vision—seeing the website as a legacy—early in the history of the ALBC.

ALBC Foundation Update—Mr. Holzer requested an update from Mr. Scholz and Mrs. Soman on the ALBC Foundation. Copies of draft documents were distributed to the Commissioners including: a Preamble, a Mission Statement, and Board of Directors data. Mrs. Soman announced that Mr. David Lawrence, who was essential to the planning of the Miami Town Hall, had joined the Foundation Board. Mr. Early highlighted the events of the Miami Town Hall thanking Mr. Lawrence for his extensive leadership. More than 1400 people attended.

Endorsements Update—Mr. Holzer referred to the written report and asked Ms. Barefoot if requests for endorsement continued. She said there is the potential for at least one more and may be others. Both Ms. Barefoot and Mr. Holzer asked the Commissioners, how long should we accept endorsement applications? Mrs. Rosenfeld commented that those submitted and voted on past the deadline for the final report would not be included in it. Dr. Burton stated that they could be added to the website. It was decided by consensus that they should be accepted up to the last possible moment under the Commission's sunset clause.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Holzer raised the issue of a meeting in New York in February. He updated the Commissioners that Messrs. Andre Deshields, Richard Dreyfuss, and Steven Lang would be participating in the Cooper Union event, February 25th. After much discussion it was decided by consensus that there was not enough business to warrant meeting in February. The meeting and wrap-up events scheduled for Washington, D.C. on April 19th were confirmed.

NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business Mr. Holzer announced the production and publication of two new postage stamps in Africa to celebrate Abraham Lincoln.

Ms. Mackevich presented a plaque to Ms. Caldwell for her service to the Commission in coordinating the Town Halls. She will be leaving the ALBC soon after the Los Angeles Town Hall to return to Congressman Jackson's staff. All present and on the phone joined in both thanking her and congratulating her.

Mr. Holzer thrilled the Commissioners with the announcement of a \$5,000 gift by Mrs. Taper to support the Wrap-Up events in Washington on April 19th. This gift is eligible for matching with Commemorative Coin funds, so it will also make possible a donation for the ALBC Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Holzer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chief Justice Williams so moved and Ms. Flinspach seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach, Secretary