

LINCOLN LEGACY COMMITTEE

Meeting, October 15, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Busey Bank Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library

Minutes

1. Call to Order- Meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.
2. Roll Call- Members present: Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey, Barb Wysocki, Pat Cain, Kay Grabow, Adele Suslick, Eric Thorsland. Members absent: Kamryn Suttinger, Ray Cunningham, Allyson Smerz
3. Approval of Agenda-Motion to approve the agenda was made by Adele Suslick; Seconded by Eric Thorsland. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Approval of Minutes-July 30, 2025- Motion to approve the minutes was made by Kay Grabow; Seconded by Barbara Wysocki. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Public Participation-There was no public participation.

7. Old Business

A. General Updates

Barb O-G commented that the Museum of the Grand Prairie is once again hosting their Lincoln Lecture Series. One lecture has already passed, an interpreter of Mary Lincoln; another will be hosted at the museum on November 8 at 2 p, an interpreter of Ulysses S. Grant. She also offered the update that Allyson Smerz sent in, that the exhibit at the Illinois History and Lincoln Collection that she created, about Lincoln, is still on view. Allyson also reported to Barb O-G that the scrapbooks of the family who donated the core collection of the IHLC are in the process of being digitized. (9 of 27 are completed) and available through the Digital Library.

Barb O-G also noted that she had an upcoming meeting with Brian Adams to strategize about the Looking for Lincoln sign which he proposed near the Royer (formerly Lincoln) Hotel. Progress is stalled on the website because of Barb O-G's recent travel.

B. CCMN Report

Barb Wysocki reported that CCMN will be changing their meeting time to a morning time, 10 am on the second Friday of the month. Also, the CCMN was busy planning for Pridefest. There will be a CCMN table (hours 1-5 on Saturday) and the LLC could be present if they wanted to be. Barb O-G said she was unavailable that day, as was Barb W. However, we could get our brochure to someone in CCMN to distribute that day. Barb O-G suggested

that she could get brochures to Perry Morris. She also stated that we might want to think about printing some more brochures as other museums might be willing to take them.

D. 2026 Planning

Barb Wysocki went on to talk about her meeting with the judges on September 23rd, commenting she had sent us all a summary from that meeting. The judges are pleased with the idea of having bookend celebrations, one on May 1 (Law Day) and the other on the anniversary of the 1901 courthouse on August 22nd. The lawyers are enthusiastic about reviving the celebration of Law Day and have already reached out to local school officials. Barb W noted that the lawyers would come out to classrooms when she taught at University High School. She believes that the judges and lawyers are more interested in getting students into the courthouse now. Barb W. said she had spoken with Will Best at the Champaign County history museum because they apparently have a document which lists the distribution of displaced staff while the 1901 courthouse was being built. He also noted that one of the Urbana Cohen family had played violin at the opening of the courthouse. Barb W thought it would be nice to have a violinist at our August celebration. Kay Grabow offered that her students dressed up as Saul Cohen once and played violin; she also thought it was a good idea for the courthouse commemoration. Barb W. also suggested we should plan at least one Inside Out article regarding these events. Barb O-G concurred. Barb O-G wondered to what extent would Lincoln content be included as that is the mission of this committee. Barb W replied that we could incorporate the Lincoln exhibit into the schedule of the August days. Judge Rosenbaum seemed to favor some sort of parade/procession of school children at the August 22 event. Kay Grabow suggested that perhaps this could take place as part of a series of stations for children. Barb O-G recalled that we had a Law Day foot race in the Lincoln Bicentennial year in imitation of Lincoln's footrace on Main Street in Urbana, and possibly we could do that again.

Barb O-G expressed concern that the May date is at the end of the school year, and the August date is right when school begins again. She also thought we should double check when the Illinois marathon is, because that could be an impediment to the May event.

Barb W thought that by February we should have a rack card ready to go to promote these events. Barb O-G said she would be able to do that if we have details nailed down.

Barb W said she had contacted the CU Photography Club to see if there was any interest in participating in some way as many of them must have taken photos of the courthouse at some point. She hadn't received an answer from them yet.

Adele added that Lincoln practiced in two courthouses and had once sat as a judge as a substitute for David Davis and maybe that's a connection. Barb O-G said, yes, we can

always do something interpretively, especially if the camera club doesn't work out, (e.g., the Kansas Nebraska Act banner). Barb W said that someone mentioned a banner outside the Courthouse. Barb O-G said that a large banner affixed to the building is quite costly, but there could be a yard sign which would be much less expensive. Barb O-G also suggested the kid's parade might also include children making pennants. Adele suggested that maybe kids could march to the fairground where Lincoln and Douglas spoke. Barb O-G commented that the fairgrounds is pretty far from the courthouse and also, that she wasn't sure the fairgrounds were actually in the same place as they are today.

Eric Thorsland left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

E. Archives Bazaar-how did it go? Pat Cain and Barb Wysocki reported on the Archives Bazaar. Barb Wysocki reported that the Archives Bazaar went well. She liked the fact that everyone was on the second floor but didn't think the separation of a couple of groups in the Archives itself was a good arrangement. Pat Cain said he also didn't like that, but that they did the best they could with the space they have. And the Archives would be seeking input from participants. He also stated that the acoustics are better upstairs, so conversations were easier. There were about one hundred people attending. Our brochures went well, and Barb W. said she had a couple of particularly good conversations with folks about our group.

Barb O-G said she'd like to get the plastic holders and table banner back from Barb W, so that we could keep track of our display materials.

F. Set up meeting with Taylor Studios. Barb O-G reported that she had emailed and called Taylor Studios and had no response, but she would continue to bother them until she got some response.

G. Review of by-laws- Barb O-G said that the last time our By-Laws were reviewed was fall of 2023 and the by-laws state that we have to review them every two years. She will send you the by-laws for review so we can discuss them at the next meeting. Barb O-G expressed that her major concern is that of membership. Currently there are standing members: Champaign County History Museum, Museum of the Grand Prairie, Champaign County Historical Archives, and Homer Historical Society. However, there have been varying levels of participation based on the institution's leadership and designated members which may make this arrangement non-sustainable. Also, Barb O-G thinks that maybe we need to get more community participation in the committee.

H. Other- Pat Cain reported on the progress of the Underground Railroad exhibit. Pat said that they were finishing text and plans for the local companion exhibit for the Looking for Lincoln Underground Railroad exhibit. Their exhibit covers surrounding counties and will

also focus on Matthias Dunlap and family from Savoy. Dunlap was anti-slavery but also anti-immigrant and anti-feminist, but they've decided to tell his whole story. They also have much of the programming plans finished hoping to present Kathryn Harris as Harriet Tubman and a speaker on Free Frank McWorter and New Philadelphia (someone who is a descendant).

7. New Business

A. General-We need to find a location for the January 28 meeting. Pat said he will check to see if there is anywhere available in the Urbana Free library on that day.

B. Membership (see by-laws discussion above).

8. Adjournment

9. Upcoming Meetings

- December.9?868**1** Busey Bank Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
- January.8**4**?868**2** Meeting place to be determined
- March.8**1**?868**2**Friends Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
- May.8**3**?868**2**Friends Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
- July.8**5**?868**2**Friends Meeting Room, Champaign Public Library
- September 23, 2026 Reservation to be made
- December.8?868**2**Reservation to be made