



Minutes of the January 10, 2008 meeting of the
Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Lincoln, Illinois.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Lincoln, Illinois met in Lincoln City Hall on January 10, 2008. Members present included: Mayor Davis-Kavelman, Shirley Bartelmay, Paul Beaver, Darlene Begolka, Ron Keller, Geoff Ladd, Brian Messner (for Keith Ray), and Wanda Lee Rohlf. Paul Gleason and Richard Sumrall were absent.

Ron called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. The Mayor made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes, and Wanda Lee seconded.

Commissioners reported on current project ideas and goals in front of the commission:

- **Helping implement a Lincoln theme in existing events**
 - Darlene reported that Railsplitters will split a rail during halftime at the February 1 Lincoln High School basketball game. It will be an opportunity to showcase the National Railsplitting Festival as well as the bicentennial activities upcoming.
 - Geoff remarked that the christening should be re-enacted in both 2008 and 2009, and the commission was in agreement.

- **Bicentennial Day (July 3rd) during Heritage Days**
 - For the bicentennial Lincoln day during Heritage Days, the commission decided to go ahead and host another ice-cream social as last year. The Mayor informed the group that Heritage Days is hosting a roasted chicken dinner, but something more Lincoln-related is needed.
 - The commission Ron to contact Max and Donna Daniels (a.k.a Abe & Mary Lincoln—last year’s winners) to see if they might produce a program.
 - Wanda Lee offered the idea of a “ghost tour” following the social on that day. More on that in future meetings.

- **Possible marker for 1858 rally on Courthouse lawn**
 - Discussion took place over how to pursue the marker Leigh Hensen had suggested. Paul B. suggested that Leigh could put on his website a plea to raise money. The mayor agreed and that citizens could contribute and that the marker might read ‘paid for by the citizens of Lincoln.’ Geoff suggested that tourism might help fund a portion of the balance. The mayor said that Heritage Days money might be used, and that while she might bring it up to the city council also, she would hold off for now.

- Geoff and Paul will investigate options including types of markers and cost.
- Paul made a motion to nominate Leigh Henson as a commissioner pending city council approval. Wanda Lee seconded. Mayor Davis-Kavelman agreed to forward his name on to the city council. Ron volunteered to contact Leigh for word of his acceptance.
- **Restaging of 1858 event**
 - The commission agreed that this should be a pivotal event for our bicentennial group. Thus the commission will form a committee to meet between monthly bicentennial meetings to plan the restaging. Ron, Darlene, Paul, the Mayor volunteered to join the committee, and Ron will also ask Leigh.
- **Other previous projects and ideas still on the table:**
 - Parade float in Heritage Days for 2009
 - Special art categories in Art & Balloon Festival
 - Commission special painting of 1858 Lincoln rally
 - Abraham Lincoln Chautauqua at Lincoln College
 - Marketing of *From Surveyor to President* video
 - Selling souvenir postcards with Feb 12, 2009 postmark from Lincoln, IL
 - Writing articles on various Lincoln topics for *Courier*
 - Lincoln scholars panel jointly at LC and LCC
 - Develop educational programs for local schools/ community
 - "Lincoln in Lincoln" special exhibit at LC Museum
 - Songfest downtown or stage an old-time theatre
 - 1850's fashion show (Shirley volunteered Postville to be a host site)
- **New Business: Ravinia Music Festival**
 - Ron reported that the Ravinia Music Festival in Northbrook, IL received a grant from the state bicentennial commission, and one of their projects is to host in several Illinois cities a free concert of a 3-piece orchestra. The Ravinia CEO has asked Ron to find venues sometime in fall 08 or spring 09 for concerts. They are looking to book as many performances in that one date while in Lincoln as possible
 - Ron further asked for possible organizations and places to host
 - Brian offered the chapel at LCC as a possibility
 - Paul offered that Sue Beaver be contacted, and that the women's club be a possible host
- **Additional new business**
 - The Mayor asked the commission if they would like to put an ad in the

Lincoln Daily News for \$30. The online newspaper is developing a bicentennial event column. The commission agreed not to pursue that at this time.

- Ron asked for suggestions for developing a website. Geoff said that tourism's site could be used. The Mayor recommended that since it is a city commission, that the city's homepage provide a link with information. Ron said that since Leigh has already developed a comprehensive site on Lincoln, he might be interested in assisting as well.
- Paul announced the annual Looking For Lincoln event will be held on February 10. Wayne Temple will be the speaker for the dinner. Main Street is selling tickets.

Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Darlene seconded. The commission adjourned at 6:06 PM. **The next meeting will be on February 7th at 5 PM at City Hall.**

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