



Bicentennial Committee 2008

Mark Cheplowitz, Chair
County – Kerry Macomber

Cities:

Aurora – John Olivier
Kent – Christine Craycroft
Ravenna – Mayor Poland
Streetsboro – Nancy Cobb
Tallmadge – Sharon Alexander

Townships:

Atwater – Steve Georges
Brimfield – Sue Fields
Charlestown – Jim Eskridge
Deerfield - Bill Westover
Edinburg – Charlene Badger
& Linda Dillon
Franklin – Marilyn Sessions
Freedom - Sallie Hubeny
Hiram – Richard Masters
& Judy Wilson
Mantua– Mark Hall
Nelson - David Finney
Palmyra - Sam Vechter
Paris – Fiscal Officer
Randolph - Becky Carter
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Rootstown – Paul Galido
& Shirley Riemenschneider
Shalersville - Don MacLearie
& Deb Mazanec
Suffield - Ginger Sayre
Windham - Brian Miller
& Gayle Poots

Villages:

Brady Lake – Les Bennett
& Jim Hostler
Garrettsville - Teri Eiermann
Hiram - Roger Cram
& Gery Henkels
Mantua – Mayor Hopkins
Mogadore – June Long
Sugar Bush Knolls - Jim Beal
Windham – Sondra Edwards
& Kelly Meszaros

PORTAGE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
Board of Commissioners · 449 South Meridian Street · Ravenna OH 44266
Phone: 330.297.3600 · Fax: 330.297.3610 · www.co.portage.oh.us

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
January 9, 2008
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Portage County – Mark Cheplowitz and Kerry Macomber; **Cities** of Aurora-Christine Shock, Kent-Christine Craycroft and Tallmadge-Sharon Alexander; **Townships** of Brimfield-Sue Fields, Deerfield-Bill Westover, Edinburg – Charlene Badger, Franklin-Marilyn Sessions, Freedom-Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Richard Masters & Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Palmyra-Sam Vechter, Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown–Paul Galido & Shirley Riemenschneider; Shalersville-Deb Mazanec, Suffield-Ginger Sayer, Windham-Gayle Poots; **Villages** of Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman, Les Bennett & Jim Hostler, Garrettsville-Teri Eiermann, Hiram-Roger Cram and Mogadore-Jamie Cordier
Guests: Commissioner Maureen T. Frederick, Mr. Earl Biederman, Aurora Historical Society, Ramona Stamm, KSU and Matt Mastrangelo and Mike Mulhall, Cleveland Indians

Excused Absence: Township of Charlestown

Unrepresented: City of Ravenna and Streetsboro; Townships of Atwater, Nelson and Paris; Village of Mantua and Sugar Bush Knolls

Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the Committee and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the December 12, 2007 minutes was moved by Ms. Carter; seconded by Ms. Hubeny. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Marketing

Mr. Cheplowitz commented that The User Friendly Phone Book, featuring the Portage County Bicentennial on its cover, has been distributed. Also, Mr. Cheplowitz shared a final draft of The Portage 100 - The Unofficial Guide to Everything, which will be distributed at the Opening Gala. Ms. Cordier presented a timeline



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of publication dates for advertising in the Record Publishing Company newspapers utilizing the \$10,000 grant. She explained the strategy is to build awareness through repetition so that readers begin to look for our next ad. She will also use the geocaching activity in conjunction with places found in The Portage 100.

Finance

Ms. Carter reported that revenues to date are \$45,076 and available funds at \$27,119. The Finance Committee approved payments to Wizard of Ah’s \$2,300, Window Box Florist \$750, and High Society Band \$625. Ms. Carter also explained that the Finance Committee reviewed two Applications for Use of Portage County Bicentennial Logo: Aurora Antique Show and Sale and the Portage Park District. It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee that both of these applications be approved by the Regular Bicentennial Committee.

Mr. Biederman briefly described the application for the Aurora Antique Show and Sale.

Mr. Cram moved that the application be accepted as presented and that the Chairman signs the contract; Mr. Vechter seconded. Upon verbal voted, motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Craycroft described the application for the Portage Park District plans to promote the Bicentennial Heritage Tours indicating that there are weekly planned events.

Mr. Enders moved that the application be accepted as presented and that the Chairman signs the contract; Ms. Eiermann seconded. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Cleveland Indians

The presentation by the Cleveland Indians included group information on discounts and fundraising, a donation of a 2007 All-Star Game Photo and a donation of Suite for the May 23, 2008 game including fireworks for the Silent Auction. The Committee discussed the possibility of a Portage County Bicentennial night at the park with includes a parade on the field, score-board recognition, etc.

Ms. Carter moved to adopt Friday, July 25, 2008 as a Portage County Bicentennial Night at the Cleveland Indians; Ms. Eiermann seconded. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.



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Merchandising: There has not been enough interest in ordering merchandise from the Committee members to make it cost effective. It was agreed to return all checks and to table all further merchandising ideas.

Operations: Mr. Cheplowitz will meet with Ms. Poots to explain the role of operations.

Sponsorships: Mr. Cheplowitz remarked on the success of gaining the support and interest of the Cleveland Indians and also reported that Wal-Mart has agreed to supply miscellaneous items for each event. He requested that each committee chair provide the wish list for their event (wreaths for the memorial service, bicycles for the coloring contest, Birthday party silverware, etc.) by February 1, 2008. Mr. Cheplowitz also remarked that the Committee needs to still raise another \$50,000 and all suggestions for contacts should be forwarded to him.

Historical: Mr. Enders reported that 40 volumes of the Historical Timeline have sold and that he continues to do speaking engagements.

Committee Reports

Opening Gala (1/19/2008): Ms. Mazanec reported that 186 tickets have been sold, the menu has been finalized and the flowers ordered. Ms. Sayre reported that 23 items have been received but she will need descriptions and value amounts for the silent auction listing.

Memorial Recognition (5/17/2008): Ms. Riemenschneider reported that she is still contacting the sextons and community leaders for names. She needs the names by February 15, 2008.

Birthday Celebration (6/9/2008): Ms. Wilson discussed changing the route and Mr. Cheplowitz explained why it was not possible. Ms. Wilson is looking into volunteer staff from the Salvation Army. Mr. Cheplowitz will arrange for walkie-talkies. Ms. Shock is working to find businesses to sponsor children activities. There are cake concerns that need to be addressed. The City of Aurora will donate tents, etc.



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Historical Play: Mr. Cheplowitz met with the playwright, who is experienced with writing and producing plays for children. He plans to write the play in the Spring and tour it in the Fall.

Legacy: Ms. Alexander reported that the project is coming along. KSU Adult Development classes are assisting. She has already received one response from the User Friendly Phone Book.

Time Capsule (12/13/2008): Ms. Riemenschneider reported that the Historical Society is pleased to host the site.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the Coleman Professional Services Sue Hetrick Building, 3922 Lovers Lane (aka Loomis Pkwy), Ravenna OH 44266.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kerry Macomber