

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
February 7, 2007
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Portage County-Mark Cheplowitz, Chair and Kerry Macomber; **City** of Tallmadge – Sharon Alexander; **Townships** of Freedom–Sallie Hubeny, Hiram Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Ravenna–Wayne Enders, Rootstown–Paul Galido, Shalersville–Don MacLearie, **Villages** of: Garrettsville- Teri Eiermann, Hiram- Roger Cram and Sugar Bush Knolls, Jim Beal

Excused Absence: Cities of Aurora, Kent, and Ravenna; Township of Deerfield Franklin, Mantua, Nelson, Randolph, Windham; Village of Garrettsville and Windham

Unrepresented: City of Streetsboro; Townships of Atwater, Charlestown, Edinburg, Palmyra and Paris; Villages of Brady Lake, Mantua, Mogadore

Guests: Judi Allen, Kelso House/Brimfield

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the January 10, 2007, minutes was moved by Ms. Wilson; seconded by Mr. Enders. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Education/ Events: Mr. Cram distributed an outline of the proposed Portage County Airport– Antique Aircraft & Automobiles event; Antique Show – held in Aurora; and History Education – held at Hiram College. Mr. Cram reported that the plays at Hiram may be conducted by Hiram students and he will confirm at the next meeting. Mr. Cheplowitz requested the cost clarification of each event.

Ms. Eiermann reported that location for the Opening Gala was a priority and that NEOUCOM is centrally located and would most likely be better attended than if the Opening Gala was held at the Bertram in Aurora. Quotes from both the Bertram and NEOUCOM have been requested. NEOUCOM is currently revising their menu selections and price can not be determined until that information is available. Mr. Cheplowitz requested that each member sell at least one table. The Committee discussed comp tickets for this event.

Mr. Enders moved that no free or complimentary tickets be given out for the Opening Gala; Ms. Alexander seconded. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Parade: Ms. Wilson has met with the coordinator for the Ravenna Balloon A-fair and reported that was very helpful. Mr. Cheplowitz requested that Ms. Wilson provide Rules of Entry, Route Plan, etc. for the next meeting.

Finance: Mr. Galido announced that the Portage Community Bank will be the financial institution serving the Portage County Bicentennial Committee. The Finance Committee is working with Family & Community Services, Inc., our fiscal agent, to finalize procedures for processing invoices and check requests.

Sponsorship: Mr. Cheplowitz reported that he and Ms. Macomber have been actively pursuing and meeting with potential sponsors. He requested that each committee member forward to Ms. Macomber names and numbers of any financial leads. He encouraged all members to work with their political subdivision to obtain the listing of vendors for that community, which is a public record.

Time Capsule: Mr. MacLearie is waiting to hear from the Portage County Historical Society before he contacts the Board of Commissioners regarding burial site for the Time Capsule.

History: Mr. Enders reported on the procedure communities will use to identify graves and routes for the driving tour of the Memorial Recognition event.

Legacy: Ms. Alexander reported that she has begun to form and train committee members using the questionnaire as revised by comments received from Commissioner Keiper and Mr. Cheplowitz. Mr. Cheplowitz suggested the Bicentennial Committee be used as a test group. He also suggested that Marketing needs to get the media involved.

Religious Event: Mr. Enders reported that he has worked with Mr. Miller on this event and that he has contacted Dr. Greg Widener, who portrays a Greater Western Reserve Disciples of Christ Minister and charges only \$100 for this performance.

Merchandising:

Calendar: Ms. Eiermann requested that each member send the birthday or founding date for their community so it may be included in the Calendar.

License Plate: Ms. Macomber reported that only about 250 of the 1,000 signatures needed were obtained for the Specialty License Plate. Committee members agreed to drop that initiative.

Additional Events/Co-Sponsorship Opportunities: Mr. Cram reported that the Aurora Rotary Club Antique Show would like the Portage County Bicentennial

Committee to participate. Mr. Cram will bring back ideas for development of the proposal to move forward.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Coleman Professional Services Sue Hetrick Building, 3922 Lovers Lane (aka Loomis Pkwy), Ravenna OH 44266.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber