

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
November 8, 2006
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Portage County-Kerry Macomber and Brad Turner; **City of Aurora** – George Horvat; **Townships** of Atwater-Steve Georges, Brimfield-Sue Fields, Deerfield-Bill Westover, Freedom-Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Judy Wilson, Nelson-David Finney, Palmyra-Sam Vechter, Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown-Paul Galido and Shirley Riemenschneider, Shalersville-Don MacLearie, Suffield-Ginger Sayre; **Villages** of Hiram- Roger Cram and Gery Henkels; Sugar Bush Knolls-James Beal, Windham-Sonya Edwards

Excused Absence: Mark Cheplowitz, Chair; City of Tallmadge; Townships of Mantua and Randolph; Village of Garrettsville

Unrepresented: Cities of Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro; Townships of Charlestown, Edinburg, Franklin and Paris; Villages of Brady Lake, Mantua, Mogadore

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the October 11, 2006, minutes was moved by Mr. Vechter; seconded by Mr. Galido. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Chair Update

Ms. Macomber explained that Mr. Cheplowitz is not able to attend tonight, but that he may be reached via e-mail or voice mail. Mr. Cheplowitz extended an invitation to the Committee members to attend any of his three upcoming Christmas shows and to contact him directly if interested.

On behalf of Mr. Cheplowitz, Ms. Macomber addressed the Committee and asked that the decision to change the Bicentennial celebration (parade and cake) to the Saturday prior to June 9, 2008 be revisited. Discussion included an explanation of the entertainment industry's scheduling preferences during the month of June, an informal poll taken at the Kiwanis speaking engagement, and clarification of scheduling the activities to take place late afternoon/early evening.

Mr. Enders moved to rescind the motion at the October 11, 2006 meeting to move the date of the Bicentennial Celebration to June 7, 2008 and to reinstate the date of the celebration to June 9, 2008; Mr. MacLearie seconded. Upon verbal vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Turner presented the suggested icons as developed for events, which include a baseball player, golfer, dancing partners, artist, church and an Indian in canoe.

The Parade theme is modes of transportation, which will be represented by the icon of the Indian in the Canoe. The committee agreed that the color selections and icon selections were consistent with the Bicentennial theme. Mr. Turner will be finalizing the sponsor package and needs complete the information on events.

Committee Reports

Road Show: Mr. Westover reported that Hiram Village has been the only response to the poster requests. Sue Fields reported that Brimfield's Parks and Recreation Department will be submitting theirs. Suffield and Rootstown will be submitting photography collages.

Education: Mr. Cram discussed the letter written during the Civil War and reported that some historians have cautioned against opening the letter publicly. The overall consensus of the Committee is to go forward with original plans to open the letter at the Gala. Mr. Cram is investigating using school-aged actors in the historical plays.

Entertainment: Ms. Sayer commented that in her experience with the Weathervane, the children productions have been very successful.

Events: Ms. Eiermann will be meeting the Conference Staff at NEOUCOM regarding the Opening Gala on November 28, 2006 and invited the committee.

Parade and Birthday Party Celebration: Ms. Wilson submitted a revised Parade Budget and a Draft letter to be sent to the Historical Societies. Ms. Macomber questioned whether the Wedding fit into the Bicentennial Committee's Mission Statement and after committee discussion, it was agreed to drop the Wedding plans and focus the parade on modes of transportation.

Finance: Mr. Galido announced that the first Finance Committee was held and the Charter for the Finance Committee was adopted. It was agreed that Mr. MacLearie will investigate the cost of obtaining a bond for the Bicentennial Committee members as a whole. Mr. Galido is working with Gregg Thompson from Mr. Cheplowitz' office to finalize the overall budgets. He will investigate financial institutions to set up our banking accounts and finalize procedures with Mr. Musci, Family and Community Services, Inc.

Food: Mr. Henkels reminded committee members to forward all food requests.

Historical: Mr. Enders has completed the timeline for the 17th and 18th century regional and national history. A copy of the draft was distributed, but members that wish a final can request a copy from Ms. Macomber. Mr. Enders is planning to help the Historical Society finalize the record of the 20th century.

Ms. Riemenschneider submitted a report and budget for recording and archiving the activities of the Bicentennial Committee. Ms. Riemenschneider also

submitted a report and budget for the Cemetery Clean Up activity and requested that the activity be renamed Memorial Recognition Event.

Legacy: Mr. MacLearie will be contacting the Board of Commissioners to determine appropriate burial locations for the time capsule. He will also be contacting the Portage County Historical Society to determine interest.

Operations: We need a Volunteer to Chair this Committee to organize and coordinate operations for the Bicentennial events.

Preview: Information on the Cookbook and Calendar has been submitted to the Record Courier for an article and we are waiting for its release.

Sponsorship: Ms. Macomber reported that after she and Mr. Cheplowitz attended the Kent Kiwanis meeting last month, the President, Mr. Carpenter, called and requested information on a children's activity. Ms. Macomber proposed a Countywide Coloring Contest using "The ABC's of Portage County." A proposal and budget for this activity was distributed.

Mr. Enders moved that the Countywide Coloring Contest be accepted as an official Portage County Bicentennial Event to be held on April 12, 2008, contingent upon full funding; Mr. MacLearie seconded. Upon verbal vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 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