



Bicentennial Committee 2008

Mark Cheplowitz, Chair
County – Charlene Badger

Cities:

Aurora – Christine Shock
Kent – Christine Craycroft
Ravenna – Mayor Poland
Streetsboro – Wayne Johnson
& Richard Taiclet
Tallmadge – Sharon Alexander

Townships:

Atwater – Steve Georges
Brimfield – Sue Fields
Charlestown – Jim Eskridge
Deerfield - Bill Westover
Edinburg – Richard Badger
& Linda Dillon
Franklin – Marilyn Sessions
Freedom - Sallie Hubeny
Hiram – Richard Masters
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Mantua– Mark Hall
Nelson - David Finney
Palmyra - Sam Vechter
Paris – Fiscal Officer
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Shalersville - Deb Mazanec
Suffield - Ginger Sayre
Windham - Brian Miller
& Gayle Poots

Villages:

Brady Lake – Les Bennett,
Jim Hostler & Mayor Lehman
Garrettsville - Teri Eiermann
Hiram - Roger Cram
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Mantua – Mayor Hawkins
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Board of Commissioners • 449 South Meridian Street • Ravenna OH 44266
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Portage County Bicentennial Committee September 10, 2008 *Minutes*

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Portage County – Mark Cheplowitz, Charlene Badger; **Cities of:** Kent-Christine Craycroft, Tallmadge-Sharon Alexander; **Townships of:** Deerfield-Bill Westover, Edinburg-Richard Badger, Freedom,-Sally Hubeny, Hiram-Judy Wilson and Richard Masters, Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown- Shirley Riemenschneider; **Villages of:** Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman and Jim Hostler.

Absent: Cities of Aurora, Ravenna, Streetsboro; Townships of Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Mantua, Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Shalersville Suffield, Windham; Villages of Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogadore and Sugar Bush Knolls.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Aug. 13, 2008 minutes was moved by Mr. Enders, seconded by Ms. Carter. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Finance:

Ms. Carter reported that the committee approved payment of bills for the Road Show of \$75, postage, frames, and \$7,500 for the historical play. They heard a report from Ms. Riemenschneider on the Time Capsule budget. Some ideas were discussed for the use of any surplus funds at the end of the year. Ms. Carter moved and Mr. Lehman seconded to move the regular time of the Finance Committee meetings to 5:30 p.m. and the regular meeting to 6:00 p.m. Motion carried. The full committee discussed ideas for the surplus funds. Ms. Carter suggested thanking Family and Community Services for all their help with the financial accounting. Also, the Portage County Historical Society is the keeper of all county records and will be taking care of the Time Capsule, Ms. Riemenschneider noted. Ms Badger suggested scholarships to the local high schools and Ms. Craycroft suggested the Portage Foundation. Mr. Cheplowitz said another county had a granite memorial that showed a timeline of their county historical events. Committee members will be asked for suggestions.



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Sponsorships:

The Target store in Streetsboro has donated a \$50 gift card which will be used to purchase plastic frames for some of the posters.

Events/Activities:

Black Stocking Baseball Game (8/16/2008).

Mr. Badger reported that 150 attended the Black Stockings game v. Portage Bicentennial Locals. This was in addition to the county employees at their picnic. There were two articles in the Record Courier, including photographs of the game. Five of the players were young men from the Wooden Bat League. He would like to have the committee get them something since they donated their time when they were also in the midst of their own tournaments. He had checked with the Cooperstown on-line site, for vintage hats and there was one from Cincinnati which was one of the first professional teams; they were \$25 each. Ten people altogether played, but he suggested those on the committee would not have to get one. Mr. Cheplowitz said he would get him information on getting the Bicentennial logo so that it could be printed on hats.

Time Capsule (12/13/2008): Ms. Riemenschneider reported that she has sent a letter to 8th grade history teachers and heard back from one in Aurora and one in Rootstown who are excited about the project. She will also check back with Stanton school in Kent. Letters have gone out to sponsors in the county asking them to write letters to their predecessor in 100 years. She would like to plan a ceremony and the date has been set for Saturday, Dec. 13. Mr. Cheplowitz suggested evening. Giant Eagle has said they wanted to contribute, so they may be asked to donate to the catering. He also recommended she investigate the sealing of the Time Capsule to make sure it is resistant to age. There was discussion about chemicals used to preserve items. Ms. Hubeny suggested the Road Show posters be put in the Time Capsule. Ms. Badger will check on re-printing them in a much smaller size.

Historical Play:

Ms. Badger distributed the tentative list of dates and eleven schools where the play will be performed. Mr. Cheplowitz noted that \$11,000 was donated towards the production of the play. Mr. Enders moved and Ms. Carter seconded that he be authorized to sign the contract to the playwright for the production and increase the original \$6500 amount to \$7500. Motion carried. A dress rehearsal may be performed for the County Commissioners. There was discussion among the committee of



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having a production for the public, possibly with a small admission fee, and Mr. Westover suggested the Kent Stage. But the consensus was that it would be very time-consuming to make all the arrangements for a public event, especially this late in the Bicentennial. Also, it was written for elementary students. Mr. Cheplowitz suggested that the committee members might come to the dress rehearsal.

Legacy/Literary Project:

Ms. Alexander said she took an intern and a computer to nursing homes and transcribed stories from the residents. She now has a grant through her position at the Ohio State Extension office, to do these recordings.

Road Show:

Mr. Westover reported the Road Show has been very popular and is out every weekend. Mr. Westover moved and Ms. Wilson seconded the purchase of a new 20 x 20 poly tarp to cover the Road Show display, as the last tarp did not withstand the weather and highway ride. Motion carried. Mr. Masters asked if the posters would go back to the communities after the Bicentennial. It was thought that possibly smaller photos of each sign could be made, for the communities that were interested, as the posters may get damaged when removed from the display. Ms. Craycroft invited the Road Show to the park district Oct. 4 event.

Bicentennial Endorsed Events:

Ms. Craycroft reported that the Bicentennial Heritage Tours were very popular with the public. She passed out copies of the newspaper supplement about the tours, as well as a cd made by volunteers about the park district. There will be a tour at the Historical Society on Oct. 4 from 12 – 6 pm.

Other Business

Mr. Cheplowitz said we are printing 100 of the Birthday Party posters as previously approved, and the committee needs to decide who should receive them. There could be three categories: 1. anyone who gave money as a sponsor, over a certain amount. 2. “Friends of the Bicentennial”, such as the County Commissioners, and those such as Guido’s that gave a lot of assistance during the Birthday Party event downtown; also the players on the Black Stockings team. 3. Committee members. Mr. Lehman suggested that those that came to over half the meetings could be given one. Ms. Carter suggested all the communities receive one. This will be discussed further.



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Ms. Badger will try to discover who all the committee members have been over the past three years.

Mr. Cheplowitz thanked Mr. Enders for his help as the historian and presented him with a framed poster.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 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 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Badger