



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
Ravenna - Wayne Enders
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
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Portage County Bicentennial Committee
September 12, 2007
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Portage County – Mark Cheplowitz and Kerry Macomber; **Cities** of Aurora-John Olivier, Kent-Christine Craycroft and Tallmadge-Sharon Alexander; **Townships** of Deerfield-Bill Westover, Freedom–Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Palmyra-Mr. and Mrs. Sam Vechter, Ravenna–Wayne Enders, Rootstown–Shirley Riemenschneider; **Villages** of: Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman, Les Bennett and Jim Hostler, Hiram-Roger Cram, Mantua-Mayor Hopkins, Mogadore-Jamie Cordier, Windham-Kelly Meszaros; **Guests:** Ramona Stamm (KSU)

Excused Absence: City of Streetsboro; Townships of Charlestown Edinburg, Franklin, Randolph, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham; Village of Garrettsville

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

Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the group and noted that he had recruited the volunteer services of Christine Shock, professional Public Relations and Media Relations Specialist, to assist with the planning and execution of the Bicentennial Birthday Party event. She will be arriving shortly to attend the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August 8, 2007 minutes was moved by Mr. Vechter; seconded by Ms. Wilson. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance: Ms. Macomber reported that the Finance Committee met previous to this meeting and that there are available funds in the amount of \$14,461.95. The Finance Committee discussed the cost of the Gala ticket in reference to the expense and budget for the



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event. A final decision as to price of ticket was not reached. It was noted that financial consideration of “in-kind” donations need to be documented. All committee members receiving in-kind donations should ascertain a value and forward that information to the Finance Committee. The latest budget with updates from Mr. Cheplowitz was distributed.

Marketing: Mr. Cram reported that he met with Ms. Cordier and Ms. Macomber to discuss developing a tri-fold brochure (a sample was distributed). Ms. Cordier distributed a Marketing Survey and has requested that each Committee Chair complete and return so that marketing plans can be developed for each event. A survey will be sent out with the minutes.

Preview (Cookbook): Ms. Macomber reported that the Bicentennial Cookbook was available for sale on Saturday, September 8, 2007 (Brimfest, Kent’s Art-in-the-Park, Mantua Potato Festival) and all together, 75 copies were sold, yielding \$600 in revenue.

Sponsorships: Businesses and foundations continue to be contacted. Committee members should forward potential sponsor information to Ms. Macomber.

Sports: Mr. Olivier is investigating several sporting events, including a race/torch run, black-stocking baseball game and golf outing. There was discussion about the likelihood of a golf outing being a successful fund raiser for the Bicentennial. It was suggested that alternatives, such as putt-putt or golfing at night, might be more entertaining. He will bring back suggestions to the next meeting as to which events should be pursued.

Volunteers: Ms. Macomber has approached Leadership Portage County Class of 2008 for adopting an event as the class project. The Senior Nutrition Program has volunteered to frost the birthday cake. Mr. Cram noted that he is the contact for the Rotarian Clubs in Portage County.

Events/Activities

Birthday Celebration: Mr. Cheplowitz reported that Ms. Eiermann has notified him that her responsibility to Garrettsville Council is conflicting with chairing this committee. As explained earlier, Ms. Shock has agreed to Chair this event. Ms. Shock gave



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a brief description of her experience in relation to events planning and public relations and indicated best way to get in touch with her is at her E-mail address: CShock755@hotmail.com.

Historical Play: Mr. Cram reported that he is finding out how many students have signed up for the Theatre Department and will report at the next meeting.

Legacy Project: Ms. Alexander had a booth at the County Fair and received several stories. She will be attending the Hiram College Fair tomorrow to recruit student volunteers to help with this project. She is setting up a booth at the Aurora Pioneer Days on Saturday, September 22, 2007 to gather stories and she will be presenting at the Board of Commissioners' Leadership meeting on October 2, 2007. She reminded Committee members that she needs stories and it was agreed a shorter version of the questionnaire and sample responses would be sent with the minutes.

Memorial Recognition: Ms. Riemenschneider noted that she is looking into the pricing of providing plaques for each community. She asked that each member check with officials or sexton to determine which names should be included in the memorial recognition. She would like no more than three names for each cemetery.

Opening Gala: Ms. Macomber reported that after meeting with NEOUCOM, a floor plan and a menu featuring a two- and a three-part entrée had been received. It was agreed that the duet plate would suffice. There was discussion about pricing the gala ticket and what portion of that amount would be tax deductible. It was agreed that as the Fiscal Agent, Family & Community Services, Inc. should make that determination.

It was moved by Ms. Riemenschneider that the Gala Ticket be sold for \$95; seconded by Ms. Alexander.

Discussion: Mr. Cheplowitz amended the motion to include the ticket price be \$95 provided that the expenses do not exceed that amount.

Upon verbal vote, the motion passed unanimously as amended.



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Mr. Cheplowitz reported that the menu selections are being finalized by NEOUCOM and if a committee member has a particular food item native to their community, they should send this information to Ms. Macomber. Furthermore, any ideas or items that they would like included should be sent as soon as possible. The NEOUCOM Staff may be selecting desserts from the Bicentennial Cookbook and preparing a dessert buffet.

Parade: Ms. Wilson reported that the parade committee is ready to recruit entries but would like to have the final application. Mr. Cheplowitz commented he would like to see the parade route and have a final meeting with the City of Ravenna before the applications are sent out. Ms. Macomber will arrange the meeting time and notify Ms. Wilson. Mr. Cheplowitz also noted that judges should be sitting on a stage with a handrail and not a flat bed, due to safety reasons.

Road Show: Mr. Westover presented a mock-up display that showed how the posters would be placed on the frame. There are 14 completed posters and four more at the printer. There was discussion about finding a way to secure the posters to the display wall. Mr. Cheplowitz encouraged committee members to recruit anyone in the construction field that may have this knowledge or skill set to help Mr. Westover complete the Road Show. Mayor Lehman agreed to check with his employer.

Heritage Tours: Ms. Craycroft reported that she and Mr. Olivier, Sports Committee, have developed an event to highlight the Portage Park District properties in which residents can learn more about the County’s parks, trails, preserves and historic sites. She would ask that the Committee approve use of the Bicentennial logo and assist with securing sponsors and promoting the event. Ms. Macomber will forward an Application for the Use of the Logo.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 10, 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 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber