

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
November 9, 2005
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance included: Mark Cheplowitz (Chairman); Kerry Macomber (Portage County); Diane Werner (City of Kent); David Finney (Nelson Twp); Sam Vechter (Palmyra Twp); Wayne Enders (Ravenna Twp); Shirley Riemenschneider (Rootstown Township); Dorothy Caldwell and Don MacLearie (Shalersville Twp); Brian Miller (Windham Twp); Teri Eiermann (Village of Garrettsville); Roger Cram (Village of Hiram); Mary Pallone (Village of Mantua); Jim Beal (Village of Sugar Bush Knolls)

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the October 12, 2005 meeting was moved by Mary Pallone; seconded by Jim Beal. Upon verbal vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Bicentennial Committee Letterhead

With the approval of the Portage County Board of Commissioners, the Committee agreed to personalize the Commissioner's letterhead by adding "Bicentennial Committee 2008" under the Portage County logo and also to add a listing of the members. All requests for letterhead should be directed to Ms. Macomber at the Commissioners' Office.

Event Descriptions

Date, Event and Coordinator	Description
<p>January 19, 2008 – Opening Gala:</p> <p>Entertainment Chair: Marian Garrett</p> <p>Food Chair: Mary Pallone</p>	<p>Ms. Pallone described an event that included a sit-down dinner consisting of foods appropriate to the 1800's: roast turkey, quail or goose, served by actors wearing period costumes. Communities are represented at the table such as Deerfield apple butter and Mantua potatoes are served. Valet parking would consist of horse & buggy or wagon as transport to the festivities.</p>
<p>February 15 & 16, 2008 – Historical Play:</p> <p>Historical Chair: Shirley Riemenschneider</p> <p>Education Chair: Roger Cram</p>	<p>Ms. Riemenschneider plans include depicting Portage County history in an eight-act pageant portraying important stages in the founding, development and growth of this unique northeastern part of Ohio. These plays will stage the sense of pride and worth in celebrating the bicentennial of Portage County.</p> <p>Mr. Cram also discussed a play to be held in Hiram that would include theatrical activities, street fairs, and lectures and programs to be held in a classroom setting.</p>

<p>April 12, 2008 – Taste of Portage County & Cookbook Kick-Off</p> <p>Food Chair: Mary Pallone</p> <p>Cookbook Chair: Sam Vechter</p>	<p>Ms. Pallone reported that the foods offered in the Taste of Portage County would be selected from the recipes submitted for publication in the Cookbook. All dishes would be professionally prepared. There will be an emphasis placed on period foods from the 1800s as well as foods representing residents’ ethnic backgrounds and heritage. Ms. Pallone will investigate area restaurants to determine interest and willingness to participate.</p> <p>Mr. Vechter plans to enlist the support of the Record Courier to recruit volunteers to serve on the Committee and to request family recipes for the Cookbook. Recipes will be collected and judged during 2006. The book will be assembled and edited during the first quarter of 2007 and is to be published in September 2007.</p>
<p>May 17, 2008 –Cemetery Clean-up</p> <p>Historical Chair: Shirley Riemenschneider</p>	<p>Community Event – This event will include five cemeteries that include the burial sites of veterans or significant historical persons. The event will be coordinated with the responsible local jurisdiction for equipment and civic club volunteers.</p>
<p>June 9, 2008 – Bicentennial Celebration</p> <p>Events Chair: Teri Eiermann</p> <p>Sports Chair: George Horvat</p>	<p>Entertainment – This event will be held on the County Courthouse lawn and will include a festive program, cake and fireworks with the Relay run finishing at the courthouse.</p> <p>The Bicentennial Relay involves five communities forming one relay team. The Courthouse lawn was discussed as a possible final destination to conclude during the Bicentennial Celebration.</p>
<p>July 14, 2008 – Golf Outing</p> <p>Sports Chair: George Horvat</p>	<p>Mr. Horvat submitted a description for this event that included planning for 140 golfers, corporate sponsors, hole sponsors and donors for prizes. This was identified as a revenue-generating activity.</p>

A graph depicting the necessary preparations (i.e., printing; food/caterer; entertainment; rentals; décor; costumes; venue; valet/parking; security; photographer/video; production) was identified (see attached excel file).

Overview of 2008 Bicentennial Events

Date and Event	Status
January 19, 2008 – Opening Gala	Mary Pallone has presented a plan.
February 15 & 16, 2008 – Historical Play	Shirley Riemenschneider & Roger Cram have both presented plans.
March 8, 2008 – Business Expo	Tabled.
April 12, 2008 – Taste of Portage County & Cookbook Kick-Off	Mary Pallone & Sam Vechter have presented plans.
May 17, 2008 –Cemetery Clean-up	Shirley Riemenschneider has presented a plan.
June 9, 2008 – Bicentennial Celebration and Bicentennial Relay Run	Teri Eiermann and George Horvat have both presented plans.
July 14, 2008 – Golf Outing	George Horvat has provided plans.
August 2, 2008 - Black stocking baseball	Date changed to coincide with Fun in the Sun (Windham Twp) Brian Miller will provide description at December meeting.
August 30, 2008 - Canoe trip highlighting events from the past 200 years	Tabled
October 19, 2008 - Homecoming (Religious Rally)	Brian Miller will provide description at December meeting.
November 15, 2008 – Holiday Home Tours	Tabled
December13, 2008 - Time Capsule	Don MacLearie will provide description at December meeting.

Committee Update

- **Agricultural** – Kerry Macomber
- **Cookbook** – Sam Vechter
- **Educational/Tour** – Roger Cram
- **Events Leader** – Teri Eiermann
- **Historical** – Shirley Riemenschneider
- **Road Show** – Bill Westover
- **Sports** – George Horvat
- **Transportation** – Roger Cram

Action Committee Update

- **Entertainment** – Marian Garrett
- **Equipment** –
- **Finance Committee** – Diane Werner
- **Food** – Mary Pallone
- **Funding** – Mark Cheplowitz
- **Marketing** – Roger Cram
- **Merchandising** – Teri Eiermann
- **Public Outreach** – Brian Miller
- **Volunteers** – Kerry Macomber

Marketing Committee – Roger Cram presented the following ideas:

- Develop media relations (WKSU, Akron Talk Radio, Plain Dealer, Akron Beacon Journal and Record Publishing publications);
- Utilize store front windows for displays;
- Utilize community bulleting boards;
- Establish website marketing
- Contact service organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)
- Create advertising materials;
- Hold elementary school contests for poster and logo design

Transportation Committee – Mr. Cram is developing plans for ensuring that there is adequate transportation available to meet the needs of the general public as well as handicapped and elderly residents' that want to participate in the events. He is also exploring availability of shuttle services from PARTA, KSU and Hiram College. Mr. Cram is also coordinating parking and traffic control considerations.

Homework

1. Committee Chairs need to begin recruiting committee members.
2. If you have not already done so, please provide a listing of your communities' businesses and also a listing of the businesses that supply your communities.
3. Provide a one paragraph description of the event that you are responsible for including an outline of activities.
4. If you are chairing a committee, provide an outline of how your Committee activities will be accomplished during the Bicentennial planning process.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. at the Coleman Professional Services Sue Hettrick Building at 3922 Lovers Lane (aka Loomis Pkwy), Ravenna OH 44266, located behind the Robinson Memorial Hospital.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber