

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
October 11, 2006
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Portage County-Kerry Macomber and Brad Turner; **City of Aurora** – George Horvat; **Townships** of Deerfield – Bill Westover, Freedom – Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Judy Wilson, Mantua – Mark Hall, Nelson – David Finney Palmyra – Sam Vechter, Ravenna – Wayne Enders, Rootstown–Paul Galido, Shalersville – Don MacLearie, Windham-Brian Miller; **Villages** of Garrettsville- Teri Eiermann, Hiram- Roger Cram; Sugar Bush Knolls-James Beal

Excused Absence: Mark Cheplowitz, Chair; City of Tallmadge; Townships of Brimfield, Randolph and Suffield

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 September 13, 2006, minutes was moved by Mr. Enders; seconded by Mr. Vechter. Upon verbal vote, motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Eiermann and Mr. Horvat.

Chair Update

Ms. Macomber explained that Mr. Cheplowitz will not be able to attend the next two meetings, but that he may be reached via e-mail or voice mail.

Committee Reports

Road Show: Mr. Westover reported he is working with Advanced Displays in Kent on a quote to transfer posters to banners. Mr. Vechter offered to quote the frame work that will be used to attach the posters to the trailer. Mr. Westover invited all to attend the upcoming Deerfield Apple Butter Stir and commented it may be a good opportunity to obtain signatures for the Bicentennial License plate.

Education: Mr. Cram had forwarded to Ms. Macomber a jpeg file of a copy of both sides of the envelope that was found in the Portage County Court House and may contain a letter written during the Civil War – these files are attached with the minutes. Mr. Cram indicated that he has another letter written by the same

author that mentions both Hiram and Randolph. He will also share that letter with the committee.

Events:

Commissioners' Ball/Opening Gala: Ms. Eiermann discussed the scheduled for January 19, 2008 and will be contacting NEOUCOM for information.

Geauga Lake: Mr. Enders commented on the lack of people attending Geauga Lake on the last Friday in July and questioned the future of the park. Mr. Horvat conveyed that the park has indicated there are plans for significant investment over the next two years.

Parade and Birthday Party Celebration: Plans include concluding the parade route at the Courthouse where the Birthday Cake will be served on the front steps of the Courthouse with a theatrical time line back drop and musical entertainment such as Sweet Adelaide's or Barber Shop Quartet at the top of the stairs at the entrance to the Courthouse. There was discussion as to the event date and the convenience of a weekend versus Monday event for parking, schedules, traffic, etc.

Ms. Eiermann made a motion to change the celebration date from Monday, June 9, 2008 to Saturday, June 7, 2008; Mr. Cram seconded. Upon verbal vote, motion passed with Mr. Horvat and Ms. Macomber voting nay.

Sponsorship: Mr. Brad Turner, Communications Factory, Inc. shared a prototype sponsorship packet that he has developed. The packet will consist of 15 – 20 pages of 5 ½" x 10" sheets, a faux leather cover, a faux wood back plate, bound by two brass rivets. The rustic design reflects an attractive pioneering style. The Committee responded favorably to the design. Mr. Turner reminded members he needs icons to use on the promotion of their events. Mr. Turner estimates the cost at \$2 per packet.

Finance: Mr. Galido distributed the Draft Charter for the Finance Committee and asked for comments. Total cost of events has been estimated at \$161,000; however, a few budgets remain outstanding.

Historical: Mr. Enders has researched seven additional communities and indicated that the research for the 19th century portion of the project will be completed by the end of the year. The Portage County Historical Society is doing much of the research for the 20th century.

Legacy Project: Time Capsule: Mr. MacLearie reported that a 26" x 74" pet vault, which would serve as suitable protection for the time capsule, could be obtained for approximately \$340 and the granite site marker for about \$1,125. The memorabilia coin sets are still being investigated.

Marketing: Mr. Cram will be working with Mr. Turner on developing marketing materials.

Merchandising: Ms. Eiermann prepared a one-page memo that committee members could take around to their neighbors asking for support of the Portage County Bicentennial License Plate. Ms. Macomber has spoken with State Representative Kathleen Chandler about the process for submitting a bill to the General Assembly and she eagerly agreed to help us. It is imperative that the 1,000 signatures are forwarded to Columbus by November 14, 2006 or we will most likely have to reintroduce the bill in January 2007.

Preview: Information on the Cookbook and Calendar/Art Contest will be included in the interview with Mr. Sever, Record Courier, on October 19, 2006.

Religious Event: Mr. Miller has begun developing a back-up plan in case of inclement weather. Hiram College Athletic Facility was suggested as an option.

Sports: Mr. Horvat's Golf Outing Budget was included in the previous agenda packet and he is still working on finalizing the fun run budget.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 8, 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 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber