

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
September 13, 2006
Minutes

Attendance

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

Present: Mark Cheplowitz, Chair; Portage County-Kerry Macomber; **City of Kent** – Scott McKinney; **Townships** of Franklin-Delores Durbin, Freedom – Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Judy Wilson and Richard Masters, Palmyra – Sam Vechter, Randolph – Becky Carter, Ravenna – Wayne Enders, Rootstown– Paul Galido and Shirley Riemenschneider, Suffield – Ginger Sayre, Windham-Brian Miller; **Villages** of Hiram- Gery Henkels; Sugar Bush Knolls-James Beal

Excused Absence: Cities of Aurora and Tallmadge; Townships of Brimfield, Deerfield, Mantua, Shalersville; Villages of Garrettsville, Hiram and Windham

Unrepresented: City of Streetsboro; Townships of Charlestown, Edinburg, and Paris; Villages of Brady Lake, Mantua, Mogadore

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August 9, 2006, minutes was moved by Ms. Riemenschneider; seconded by Ms. Wilson. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Chair Update

Mr. Cheplowitz noted that he had contact with Mr. Patetta, an auctioneer of old records, bonds, documents, etc., who was very excited about including the letter from the Civil War era in the Bicentennial celebrations.

Committee Reports

Entertainment: Ms. Sayre reported that a database of available venues is being developed and requested committee chairs to forward specific needs regarding size, technology, etc. Mr. Cheplowitz commented that this information is necessary in order to consolidate activities and venues.

Events: Ms. Eiermann’s Event Budget was included in the agenda packet.

Finance: Mr. Galido reported that all committee chairs have been contacted and many of the budgets have been received and acknowledged that several more were in the agenda packet. He will coordinate with Ms. Macomber to determine which budgets are still outstanding and also to finalize membership for the Finance Committee. Mr. Cheplowitz reiterated that the County is strictly limited by the Ohio Revised Code as to how much can be spent on Bicentennial Activities. The funding necessary to support our Bicentennial activities will be raised by Mark, which is why we are requesting itemized budgets even if certain

items have been promised donations. He needs to have an accurate figure as to how much each activity will cost.

Food: Mr. Henkels' Food Committee Budget was included in the agenda packet.

Historical:

- Ms. Riemenschneider's Historical Committee report was included in the agenda packet. A budget for the final report will be submitted for the October meeting. There was discussion regarding utilizing a website (i.e., myspace.com) to upload pictures for the Committee's use. A disclaimer waiving copyrights could be added. Shirley offered use of her archival case to display the letter from the Civil War and will contact Roger Cram.
- Mr. Enders' draft historical timeline of the Connecticut Western Reserve, State of Ohio, County of Portage was included in the agenda packet. To date, he has received information from nine of the 30 political subdivisions. Noting the difficulty in obtaining information, he has agreed to research several of the Townships.

Merchandising: Ms. Eiermann's Merchandising Budget was included in the agenda packet. Ms. Macomber noted that the petition for the issuance of a Portage County Bicentennial License Plate received about 100 signatures at the Randolph Fair and reminded Committee members that 1,000 signatures are needed before we can proceed with asking our State Legislators to consider authoring the required bill to the General Assembly.

Parade: Ms. Wilson's Parade Budget was included in the agenda packet and the "After Parade" report was distributed. Judy noted that one idea for an "after parade" event is holding an actual wedding with bride and groom wearing period clothing. It was suggested that Judy coordinate with Terri Eiermann, Events Chair because this could become a very popular idea with a lot of interested parties and may grow into an "event" of its own.

Preview: Cookbook – Mr. Vechter's press release and information on a cookbook producer was included in the agenda packet. Ms. Macomber will edit and submit the press release.

Religious Event: Mr. Miller submitted the Portage County "Homecoming 2008" Religious Celebration budget.

Road Show: Mr. Westover's Road Show Budget was included in the agenda packet. Ms. Macomber sent out the letters requesting community posters but there has not been much response, yet.

Sports: Mr. Horvat's Golf Outing Budget was included in the agenda packet.

Sponsorship: Mr. Cheplowitz introduced Brad Turner, Communications Factory, Inc. and summarized the meetings they have had with the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Turner explained the input that was used to develop the suggested graphics and logo designs for the Portage County Bicentennial and reviewed the three top choices. Mr. Enders moved to accept the first design as the official logo; Mr. Masters seconded. Upon a vote by hand-count, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the logo and suggestions on slight changes were made. Mr. Tuner explained the next step will be applying color and that the logo and graphic ideas will create an identity system that includes billboards, posters, t-shirts, event brochures, etc. Each Committee Chair will discuss with Mr. Turner the kind of icon that they would like to see advertise their particular event or activity.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, 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 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber