

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
June 14, 2006
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Present: Mark Cheplowitz, Chair; Portage County-Kerry Macomber; **Cities** of Aurora-George Horvat and Amy Humbert, Tallmadge-Sharon Alexander; **Townships** of Brimfield-Sue Fields, Deerfield-Bill Westover, Mantua- Mark Hall, Randolph-Becky Carter, Rootstown-Paul Galido and Shirley Riemenschneider, Shalersville- Don MacLearie, Suffield-Ginger Sayre, Windham- Brian Miller; **Villages** of Garrettsville-Teri Eiermann, Sugar Bush Knolls-Jim Beal; Windham-Jodi Minotti; **Guests**- Laurie Nalepa, Matt Leedom, Howard Mangold

Excused Absence: City of Ravenna, Townships of Franklin, Hiram, Nelson, and Ravenna

Unrepresented: Cities of Kent and Streetsboro; Townships of Charlestown, Edinburg, Mantua, Palmyra and Paris; Villages of Brady Lake, Hiram, Mantua and Mogadore

Welcome

Ms. Macomber welcomed committee members and guests by noting that this meeting marked the one year anniversary of the Bicentennial Committee and thanked everyone for their involvement. Also, in honor of Flag Day, Portage County Flag pins were distributed to the committee.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May 10, 2006, minutes was moved by Mr. Horvat; seconded by Ms. Carter. Upon verbal vote, motion passed with the following abstentions: Ms. Eiermann, Mr. Galido, and Ms. Riemenschneider.

Chair Update

Mr. Cheplowitz remarked that the RFP for Professional Services of Advertising and/or Public Relations Firm has been crafted, advertised and available. The actual bid opening will take place on Friday, June 23, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 703 of the Portage County Administration Building, 449 South Meridian St in

Ravenna. Ms. Macomber noted that this is an open meeting and all committee members are invited to attend.

Mr. Cheplowitz also reported that he had met with Mr. Chema, President, Hiram College regarding the legacy portion of the Bicentennial project. Mr. Cheplowitz explained that his suggestion is a literary project such as cataloging the history and daily lives of each family in Portage County. He envisions these catalogs as documents that could be added to in perpetuity. Mr. Chema expressed a strong interest in the project and also indicated that he would be open to a coordinated effort with Kent State University. Mr. Chema offered a possible contact at Hiram College as Professor Joyce Dyer, English Department and Director of Writing, (330) 569-5152 and also mentioned that Lynn Abramovitz, Kent may be interested in receiving the PR RFP. Ms. Alexander offered that family story telling has been a specialty that she has pursued and offered to Chair this Committee. She also agreed to follow up with the Hiram College contacts.

Committee Reports

Entertainment – Ms. Sayer introduced herself and gave a brief description of her experience including recently chairing the Weathervane Theatre’s Gala, which resulted in \$22,000 being raised.

Events – Mr. Enders’ photographs and description of the Geauga Lake visit were shared with the Committee. Ms. Eiermann reported briefly on that visit as well as discussing some of the possibilities regarding the Bicentennial Parade and Birthday party on the courthouse lawn.

Finance – Mr. Galido introduced himself with a brief description of his past experience and qualifications, which includes public service as an Aurora Councilman and currently serving in the Summit County Fiscal Department.

Historical – Ms. Riemenschneider reported on the historical pageant planned for February 2008. The pageant will depict historical events as gathered from the timeline that Mr. Enders is preparing. A “spirit of Portage County” will narrate the events that can not be acted.

Legacy Project – Mr. MacLearie explained that specific site for the time capsule will need to be developed before determinations on the structure of the capsule or contents can be made but he is proposing items such as a coin mint, bicentennial memorabilia, advertisements, etc. Mr. Cheplowitz commented that the City of Akron has placed a time capsule on the third floor of City Hall in a Fiberglass Tube.

Merchandising – Ms. Eiermann reported that the Calendar Committee has already received one entry. She hopes to publicize in September. Mr. Cheplowitz suggested combining the call for entries for the cookbook and the calendar. Ms.

Eiermann reported on promoting a Portage County License Plate. This would require a petition with 1,000 signatures committing to purchasing the plate as well as legislator supported bill through the Ohio House. Ms. Riemenschneider suggested exploring the possibility of a Portage County issued postal stamp.

Operations – Ms. Wilson’s report on necessary equipment at each proposed event was read aloud by Ms. Macomber.

Public Outreach – Mr. Miller reported that he has been working with a minister to plan for the home coming/religious celebration event at Kent State University. However, he needs assistance in establishing a point of contact at the University and specific needs for public outreach. Ms. Humbert suggested contact the schools to plan for the inclusion of each graduating class of 2008 activities.

Road Show – Mr. Westover continues to refine the budget and ideas for the road show. He reminded the committee members that each community will have an opportunity to display a poster with their community highlights as well as displaying brochures for the communities. He is looking toward a late 2006 or early 2007 completion date and will need to secure a storage place at that time. Ms. Macomber suggested that area Storage Units be approached for a donation.

Sports – Mr. Horvat remarked that alternative sites for the Golf Outing will need to be explored due to impending closing of Windmill Lakes.

Volunteer – Ms. Macomber requested committee members to provide names of organizations or agencies within their communities that manage large numbers of volunteers. Ms. Humbert suggested Robinson Memorial Hospital.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 12, 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 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber