



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
Phone: 330.297.3600 · Fax: 330.297.3610 · www.co.portage.oh.us

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
October 10, 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,–Franklin-Marilyn Sessions, Hiram-Richard Masters & Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Palmyra-Mr. and Mrs. Sam Vechter, Randolph-Becky Carter, Rootstown–Paul Galido; Shalersville-Deb Mazanec, Windham-Brian Miller & Gayle Poots **Villages** of: Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman & Jim Hostler, Hiram-Roger Cram, Mogadore-Jamie Cordier; **Guests:** Christine Shock

Excused Absence: Townships of Charlestown Edinburg, Ravenna, Suffield, Windham; Village of Garrettsville, Mantua and Windham

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

Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the group and complimented Ms. Macomber on her excellent work with the meeting minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the September 12, 2007 minutes was moved by Mr. Vechter; seconded by Ms. Alexander. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Road Show: Mr. Westover reported recently receiving several community posters and indicated they would be reproduced soon. He received several quotes for the plexiglass to cover these posters with Buckeye Glass submitting the lowest bid.

Mr. Masters moved that the plexiglass order be bought from Buckeye Glass; Ms. Sessions seconded. Upon verbal vote, the motion passed unanimously.



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Heritage Tours: Mr. Olivier reported that he, Chris Craycroft and the rest of the Committee met last week to discuss the Heritage Tours of Portage County that would feature natural and historic sites throughout the county. The tours would be self-guided driving tours, bicycle, hiking, etc. There is discussion about a Bicentennial Torch Run with a route equal to 200 miles. Participants completing the Heritage Tours would be entitled to a souvenir reflecting the County’s Bicentennial. Mr. Olivier will have a budget available at the next meeting.

Sports: Mr. Olivier reported that Akron has a Black Stocking Baseball team that is associated with the Vintage Baseball Association. There was discussion about moving the event to the Aurora Ball Park and holding the event in August 2008.

Marketing: Ms. Cordier requested each Committee Chair complete and return the Marketing survey so plans can be developed for each event. Mr. Cram requested follow up on the Post Master’s decision regarding the Civil War Letters. Mr. Cram discussed a new play that the Theatre Department at Hiram is working on and how it may serve as a Bicentennial Event. Mr. Cram discussed the Antique Fly in which may be held at the Portage County Airport. Mr. Cram reported that the tri-fold brochure is available for viewing on his web site.

Opening Gala: Ms. Mazanec discussed the Bicentennial Breakfast, which is to be held on October 16, 2007 at Maplewood Career Center. All local elected officials are invited and Mr. Cheplowitz will present information on the plans for the Bicentennial celebration. Those attending will be encouraged to reserve tickets for the Opening Gala. Ms. Mazanec reported that the invitations have been ordered and will be mailed out early November. A Seating Chart was distributed so that Committee members could fill in their seating requests. Ms. Mazanec requested information on a vendor account, to be used for processing purchases at the Silent Auction. Ms. Sessions suggested the Kiwanis may be able to assist.

Finance: Ms. Carter reported funds available at approximately \$19,000. The Finance Committee reviewed the quote for the Opening Gala Program and Tickets and suggested that the Committee do this program “in house” to keep costs down. Mr. Cram agreed to get cost estimates from Hiram.



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Preview (Cookbook): Ms. Macomber anticipates the Bicentennial Cookbook will be sold out at the Deerfield Apple Butter Stir on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Mr. Vechter asked about ordering another 200 copies. Mr. Cheplowitz cautioned against ordering more without a strong indication that they would sell. The committee agreed to collect orders and hold checks for no more than three months to determine if a reorder was feasible.

Sponsorships: Several donations were received: Davey Tree \$1,000; Coleman Professional Services \$1,000; and Arcadis \$500. It was suggested UPS, Coke-a-cola, and Fed Ex be contacted.

Events/Activities

Birthday Celebration: Mr. Cheplowitz reported that Ms. Shock, Ms. Macomber and he have met with the City of Ravenna to discuss parade route, vendors, street closings, etc. They accomplished the site plan, proposed parade route and touched on utility requirements and fireworks fall out zone. Ms. Wilson asked if the parade letter was ready to go out and Mr. Cheplowitz indicated he thought it was.

Legacy Project: Ms. Alexander presented to the Board of Commissioners’ Leadership and is planning to meet with Portage County Seniors Center, Skeels Senior Center and Veterans Commission next month. The Legacy Questionnaire is on the Web site and will also be included in next year’s phone book.

Memorial Recognition: Ms. Macomber reported that she and Ms. Riemenschneider met with Shorts Funeral Home regarding sponsorship of this event.

Religious Gathering: Mr. Miller reported that Anita Stokes sent information on event locations at Hiram College, including the football stadium and field house, which is the center of campus.

Next Meeting

It was agreed to extend the meetings by moving the start time to 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Coleman Professional Services Sue Hetrick Building, 3922 Lovers Lane (aka Loomis Pkwy), Ravenna OH 44266.



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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kerry Macomber