



Bicentennial Committee 2008

Mark Cheplowitz, Chair
County – Charlene Badger

Cities:

Aurora – Christine Shock
Kent – Christine Craycroft
Ravenna – Mayor Poland
Streetsboro – Wayne Johnson
& Richard Taiclet
Tallmadge – Sharon Alexander

Townships:

Atwater – Steve Georges
Brimfield – Sue Fields
Charlestown – Jim Eskridge
Deerfield - Bill Westover
Edinburg – Richard Badger
& Linda Dillon
Franklin – Marilyn Sessions
Freedom - Sallie Hubeny
Hiram – Richard Masters
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Mantua– Mark Hall
Nelson - David Finney
Palmyra - Sam Vechter
Paris – Fiscal Officer
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& Shirley Riemenschneider
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Suffield - Ginger Sayre
Windham - Brian Miller
& Gayle Poots

Villages:

Brady Lake – Les Bennett,
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Portage County Bicentennial Committee April 9, 2008 Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Portage County – Mark Cheplowitz and Charlene Badger;
Cities of: Aurora-Christine Shock, Streetsboro-Richard Taiclet,
Tallmadge-Sharon Alexander, **Townships** of: Brimfield-Sue Fields,
Deerfield-Bill Westover, Edinburg-Richard wBadger, Franklin-Marilyn
Sessions, Freedom-Sallie Hubeny, Hiram- Judy Wilson, Palmyra-Sam
Vechter; Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown-
Paul Galido, Shirley Riemenschneider, Windham-Brian Biller; **Villages**
of: Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman and Jim Hostler, Mogadore-Jamie
Cordier, Windham-Kelly Meszaros.

Guests: Chuck Kocisko-Streetsboro, Ramona Stamm-Kent State U.
Absent: Cities of Kent, Ravenna; Townships of Atwater, Charlestown,
Mantua, Nelson, Paris, Shalersville and Suffield; Villages of
Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua and Sugar Bush Knolls.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the March 12, 2008 minutes was moved by Mr. Lehman;
seconded by Mr. Enders. Upon verbal vote, motion passed
unanimously.

Finance

Ms. Carter reported that the Finance Committee approved payments of
\$200 to Wizard Of Ah’s for sponsorship and \$248.73 to Kmart for
bicycles and helmets for the Coloring Contest. The committee also
approved incurring expenses of up to \$2500 for Road Show poster
production; up to \$600 on Memorial Recognition plaques and up to
\$500 on parade banners. Spreadsheet of revenue and expenses was also
discussed in the Finance Committee. Mr. Cheplowitz reported we are
within budget and we also have a built-in contingency in the budget.
Committee chairs should update Mr. Cheplowitz about their expected
expenses.



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Marketing: Ms. Cordier said the Record Courier is planning to do a special section on the Bicentennial on June 4. They will sell the ads and write the articles. They will call Mr. Enders for historical information and Mr. Cheplowitz for information and will coordinate with Ms. Badger and Ms. Cordier.

Ms. Badger will do a press release on requesting parade entrant applications and on the Coloring Contest. Full page ad and news release will be in the Record Courier on the Coloring Contest, with photos taken by Ms. Cordier. Calendar ads have been running in the Record Courier. Committee members will be sent copies of ads.

Sponsorships

Mr. Cheplowitz reported that a \$1,000 check was received from First Energy. Wal-Mart has not called back in regard to a donation, nor for the donation of bikes for the Coloring Contest.

Committee Reports

Coloring Contest (4/19/2008) Ms. Badger reported that everything is ready for the Coloring Contest. Four bikes and helmets were purchased for prizes; coloring books, crayons, forms, printed coloring pages for the contest are done and full page ad in the Record Courier will also be posted on our website. Information was sent to all elementary schools. The event will be from 10 am – 11:30 am at the Kent Stage, in conjunction with Standing Rock Cultural Arts Who’s Your Mama Earth Day Festival which runs April 16-20 with films, dance, art, food and alternative energy displays. The coloring contest will be included in all the publicity that organization will be doing. There was \$1275 in revenue donated by Coleman and area Kiwanis Clubs. Due to donated venue and other items and the excellent price on the bikes from K-Mart, costs were only about \$455. The remaining funds can be used for other events. Committee members volunteered to help at the contest.

Memorial Recognition (5/17/2008):

Ms. Riemenschneider reported that 18 plaques have been made so far. She will give the County Commissioners a list of locations of the memorial events. She is making contact with additional subdivisions and people that will present and receive plaques.

Parade and Birthday Celebration (6/9/2008):

Ms. Wilson reported that the Congregational Church may have a gospel choir that can sing at the birthday party. Ms. Wilson is continuing to call and line up parade units. Following committee discussion on whether



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enough groups will sign up to participate in the parade, Mr. Lehman moved and Mr. Enders seconded a motion that the parade will not go forward unless a minimum of 20 units are signed up to be in the parade by May 1. Motion carried. Ms. Badger will prepare another press release on the extension of the parade deadline and also post it on the website. She reported that the Record Courier also wants to put the parade route and an article on the parade in the paper.

Ms. Shock reported that Deluxe may donate the birthday cake. Sealed baggies of cookies will be given out instead of birthday cake. She will have Bicentennial logos on the baggies. She also sent letters to vendors and sponsors that might want booths. County parking lots can be used for parade staging and fireworks. At 8:00 p.m. dignitaries will speak.

Mr. Enders said he could prepare a “Living Timeline”, a 15-20 minute narrative of people in the county’s history. The participants would have the name of the famous Portage County citizen on a poster and when they were finished reciting the names, they would turn and the posters together would make up the Portage County flag. This would be done before the fireworks. The committee liked this idea. Ms. Badger will check with a printer on cost.

Cleveland Indians Night (7/25/2008) Mayor Lehman reported that he had not heard back from the Cleveland Indians regarding the flyer on the Bicentennial Night at Progressive Field. Ms. Badger said she was contacted by the county Human Resources department and the county employee recognition committee is also having a Cleveland Indians event that same night, and maybe the Indians were confused thinking we were one and the same. That committee told the Indians they did not want a flyer. Mr. Cheplowitz will call the Indians representative he had worked with on the original idea, and Ms. Badger will check with county officials, and also the Indians, to clarify.

Black Stocking Baseball Game (8/16/2008). Mr. Badger reported that after discussion with Aurora, Windham, Ravenna and Streetsboro parks and viewing the facilities, he decided to have the Black Stocking game at Streetsboro Parks Aug. 16 at 1:00 p.m. Streetsboro has parking, restroom facilities, children’s playground, concessions and a large grassy area for the game. It was also felt Streetsboro was a more central location. He said the needed budget for the event would be \$500. Black Stocking organization had discussed a price of \$200. The Black Stockings provide a sound system, umpire and scorekeeper. We could purchase t-shirts and hats for the community team players. There could



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be a certificate of recognition for players and a team photo. Mr. Kocisko said Streetsboro Junior Baseball will run concessions.

Time Capsule: Ms. Riemenschneider reported that the time capsule has a place at the Portage County Historical Society. She passed out a list of suggested items that people could gather for the time capsule. It will be displayed at the Randolph Fair in August.

Historical Play: Mr. Cheplowitz is in the process of contracting with the playwright. Chase Bank Foundation has donated \$10,000 to sponsor the play. Ms Badger said they had mentioned to Kerry having it in schools where they have a branch.

Road Show: Mr. Westover reported that he has additional posters from communities. Funds were approved by Finance Committee to pay an artist to design posters that communities had not provided, and to pay to cover posters in plexiglass. Mr. Westover will coordinate locations where the Road Show could appear, such as local fairs and festivals. He had a list, and Ms. Badger provided him with an additional list of fairs. The trailer is available from the Recycling Center and the driver is Jon Barber, county EMA director, who will also have a truck.

Legacy Project: Ms. Alexander reported she is still seeking family stories and met with a group to direct teens to pose questions to senior citizens about their memories. She will have a booth at the Randolph Fair. She noted that the Time Capsule could also be located at that booth.

Bicentennial Endorsed Events:

Religious Event: Mr. Miller will submit the contract for use of the bicentennial logo at this event in Windham at the greens.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the Coleman Professional Services Sue Hetrick Building, 3922 Lovers Lane (aka Loomis Pkwy), Ravenna OH 44266.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Badger