

**Portage County Bicentennial Committee**  
**July 12, 2006**  
*Minutes*

**Attendance**

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Mark Cheplowitz, Chair; Portage County-Kerry Macomber; **Townships** of Deerfield-Bill Westover, Hiram-Judy Wilson, Palmyra-Sam Vechter, Randolph-Becky Carter, Rootstown-Paul Galido and Shirley Riemenschneider, Shalersville- Don MacLearie; **Village** of Hiram-Roger Cram

Excused Absence: City of Aurora and Tallmadge, Townships of Brimfield, Franklin, Mantua, Nelson, Ravenna and Suffield; **Villages** of Garrettsville, Sugar Bush Knolls and Windham

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the June 14, 2006, minutes was moved by Mr. Galido; seconded by Mr. Westover. Upon verbal vote, motion passed with the following abstentions: Ms. Wilson, Messers Cram and Vechter.

**Chair Update**

Mr. Cheplowitz remarked that the from now on the agendas will consist of Committee Updates and each Chair should come be prepared to share all updates within their committee plans, activities and budgets.

**Committee Reports**

Education: Mr. Cram distributed an Outline of Plans for Education and Tours. He reported that he has not been able to locate any plays written at Hiram College but that the faculty was enthusiastic about developing a lecture series focusing on historical events such as Portage County's role with the Underground Railroad and Civil War and also the Mormon history and influence in the area. There was discussion about the possibility of engaging the local school districts to help with writing and acting in the plays and engaging local civic clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.) to help with promotion activities.

Mr. Cram also reported on ideas to partner with the KSU Fashion Museum and to develop a small committee to do storytelling in the local schools. Mr. Cheplowitz asked Mr. Cram to craft an outline of each project with a proposed budget including manpower and possible venues.

Entertainment: Mr. Cheplowitz shared that Ms. Eiermann's had communicated her preference is to continue with the Geauga Lake event and to handle the merchandising (calendar, memorabilia, etc.). Mr. Cheplowitz asked for a volunteer to Chair the Events Committee and those interested should contact Ms. Macomber.

Finance: Mr. Galido is finalizing the procedures to be used for payment of invoices, etc. and will be convening a small committee to conduct the financial processes. He will be polling each of the Committee Chairs to gather budget information and to prepare a report for the September meeting.

Historical: Ms. Riemenschneider distributed the "Spirit of Portage" A Pageant of History for Entertainment Education Celebration. Committee discussion determined that Mr. Cram and Ms. Riemenschneider will work together to develop the play. Discussion on role of Historical Committee clarified that Ms. Riemenschneider, as Historical Chair, will serve more as a resource for factual information while Mr. Cram and other will use this resource in the development of bicentennial activities with historical themes.

Legacy – Time Capsule: Mr. MacLearie noted that he is waiting on specifications of the vaults and has had preliminary discussions with a machine shop owner that may want to donate materials and time and build the vessel. Mr. Galido shared photographs of the time capsule on display in Summit County.

Legacy – Literary Project: Mr. Cheplowitz reported that the Professor at Hiram and he have exchanged e-mails but they have not talked, yet.

Marketing: Mr. Cheplowitz reported that there were no responses to the RFP for Advertising Agency/Public Relations Firm. Based on feedback, it was decided to split that RFP into two separate activities and send it out again. Mr. Galido provided additional contacts. Mr. Cram asked for clarification as to the level of authority that each Bicentennial Committee members has in regards to contacting potential providers, etc. Ms. Macomber responded that the Board of Commissioners has given each member the authority to make initial contacts and to explore possible working relationships, but that the final decision rests with the Board of Commissioners. She reminded members that ideas should first be presented to the full Bicentennial Committee and that Mr. Cheplowitz will then take those recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Merchandising: Ms. Eiermann had reported at the last meeting information on a Portage County License Plate. Copies of the petition for signatures were available at tonight's meeting. Call Ms. Macomber for copies.

Preview: Mr. Vechter has been recruiting committee members and is ready to place an article in the Record Courier.

Road Show: Mr. Westover reminded the committee members that each community will have an opportunity to display a poster with their community highlights and shared a sample poster that featured the barns of Deerfield. He noted that the Merchandising Committee may want to make a collage out of the posters submitted as a Portage County Bicentennial Poster. He has had preliminary discussions with a company in Mantua that may donate a trailer for transporting the Road Show but still needs to secure a storage place for the display. Ms. Macomber agreed to assist with arranging for a corps of volunteers to work the display.

Volunteer: Ms. Macomber reported that she met with the South Portage County Rotary to give information regarding Portage County events and to solicit volunteers.

### **New Business/Miscellaneous**

Mr. MacLearie invited all to attend the July 30 Shalersville Opening and Dedication of the Shalersville Historical Museum as well as the August 4, 5, and 6 Shalersville Bicentennial events.

Mr. Cram remarked that he has knowledge of a letter written by a Civil War soldier to his mother who lived in Ravenna. The owners of this letter are intending to open it at a special event. The Committee agreed that including it with the Gala Event or other Bicentennial Event should be pursued. Mr. Cram will report back with additional information.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 9, 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 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Macomber