



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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Rootstown – Paul Galido
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Shalersville – Deb Mazanec
Suffield – Ginger Sayre
Windham – Brian Miller
& Gayle Poots

Villages:

Brady Lake – Les Bennett,
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Windham – Sondra Edwards
& Kelly Meszaros

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Portage County Bicentennial Committee June 11, 2008 Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Present: Portage County – Mark Cheplowitz and Charlene Badger;
Cities of: Aurora-Christine Shock, **Townships** of: Edinburg-Richard Badger, Hiram-Richard Masters and Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown-Paul Galido, Shirley Riemenschneider; **Villages** of: Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman and Jim Hostler, Windham-Kelly Meszaros.

Absent: Cities of Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Tallmadge; Townships of Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Franklin, Freedom, Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Shalersville, Suffield and Windham; Villages of Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogadore, Sugar Bush Knolls.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May 14, 2008 minutes was moved by Mr. Enders, seconded by Mr. Hall. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Finance:

Ms. Carter reported that the committee heard a request from Chris Craycroft of the Portage Park District to have \$500 from the Portage Foundation given to them. The committee agreed as long as “Bicentennial Heritage Tours” is the name of the event and our logo is used. All Bicentennial Committee bills are on target or a little below estimate. All bills were approved. Judy Wilson requested funds for thank you cards and stamps. Mr. Cheplowitz moved and Ms. Carter seconded to approve spending \$100 for thank you notes. Motion carried.

Marketing:

Mr. Cheplowitz congratulated Ms. Cordier and Ms. Badger on the work done on advertisements and press releases for the Birthday Party and Parade. There was a full page ad in the Record Courier for the Birthday party, the calendar ads are running, the 8 page insert on the Bicentennial



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was in the Record Courier, with a full page ad by the county thanking the committee, on the back page. The Kent Stater had an article and weeklies have had articles. The Akron Beacon Journal sent a reporter to cover the Road Show, and had photos of it, plus the lyrics to the Portage 100 song and article on the legacy project.

Operations

Ms. Wilson thanked Ms. Poots who she said helped immensely in the parade line-up and with the entrants.

Sponsorships:

Sponsors had their banners up at the Birthday Party stage, the companies names were announced by the DJ a number of times, they were thanked from the stage, and they were listed in the ad.

Committee Reports:

Memorial Recognition: (5/17/2008):

Ms. Riemenschneider reported that eighteen political subdivisions participated, with each community selecting those to be honored, doing the research and planning their program at the various cemeteries. An oak and brass plaque with the bicentennial logo, name of the deceased honored residents, date and a short biography, was presented by a committee member or County Commissioner. A list of the participants and the honored will be presented to the Portage County Historical Society, Reed Memorial Library and placed in the time capsule. Mr. Cheplowitz said that Ms. Riemenschneider did more than put plaques in, she did an awesome job.

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

Ms. Wilson reported that everyone was helpful, people came through at the last minute to pitch in, the fire department and security was great, there were a lot of compliments. The American Indian song to start the fireworks was really impressive and the fireworks over the courthouse was very historical, she said. Ms. Shock brought a 1808 – 2008 birthday cake by Deluxe, a miniature of what we had at the party. She reported that the vendors were all very happy. The games, food, DJ, cookies all worked out great. Mr. Cheplowitz thanked Ms. Wilson and Ms. Shock and the committee applauded them.



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Mr. Enders “Living Timeline” was also very impressive, Mr. Cheplowitz said.

Cleveland Indians Night (7/25/2008)

Mr. Lehman has assed out the flyers for the Indians game tickets to recreation departments, little leagues, KSU. He or Mr. Chelplowitz will call the Cleveland Indians to get a count. The Marketing Committee will also advertise. We may need a sub-committee meeting.

Black Stocking Baseball Game (8/16/2008).

Mr. Badger has confirmed with the Black Stocking organization and cost will be \$200 due the day of the event. They will wear 1860’s uniforms. They cannot provide old-fashioned uniforms for our “home” team but will provide our team with period caps; they suggested our team wear long sleeved white shirts and dark pants. Our team will meet with the Black Stockings at Noon that day for the history and description of the rules. The game is at 1:00 pm at Streetsboro Park. We want a cross section of the county on our team, including officials. He will be getting together a roster. Water for players was suggested. Some on the committee volunteered to play. Concessions will be handled by Streetsboro Youth League. We have to provide bales of hay for seating. Mr. Cheplowitz might get an EMS unit to be there.

Time Capsule: Ms. Riemenschneider has a list of dates and items needed. She proposed a contest for the privilege of placing an object in the time capsule. She would like to display some of the items at the fair. She may select schools in select grade levels to come up with items. College Presidents may be asked to write their successors in the future. Mr. Cheplowitz asked her to figure a budget.

Historical Play: Mr. Cheplowitz contracted with the playwright on the format and content agreed to. There will be three professional actors, props and costumes. Ms. Badger will contact the elementary schools to schedule for next fall, before school is out this year.

Road Show: The Road Show was a success at the Birthday Party with many people interested in it. Mr. Westover is scheduling dates for fairs and parades. Mr. Barber is pulling the Road Show in the parades and taking it to the fairs.



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Mr. Cheplowitz said Mr. Enders had “nailed” our historical piece. His research, getting information out to the public, the Record Courier insert and the Timeline at the birthday party were great. You are invaluable, Mr. Cheplowitz said.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 9, 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