



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
& Judy Wilson
Mantua– Mark Hall
Nelson - David Finney
Palmyra - Sam Vechter
Paris – Fiscal Officer
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Rootstown – Paul Galido

& Shirley Riemenschneider
Shalersville - Deb Mazanec
Suffield - Ginger Sayre
Windham - Brian Miller
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Villages:

Brady Lake – Les Bennett,
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Garrettsville - Teri Eiermann
Hiram - Roger Cram
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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 May 14, 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, Streetsboro-Richard Taiclet,
Townships of: Brimfield-Sue Fields, Deerfield-Bill Westover,
Freedom-Sallie Hubeny, Hiram- Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall,
Nelson-David Finney, Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna-Wayne
Enders, Rootstown-Paul Galido, Shirley Riemenschneider; **Villages** of:
Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman and Jim Hostler.

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

Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the April 9, 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
\$5.64 for the Coloring Contest and \$490 for Road Show expenses.
Expenses for marketing were approved for radio spots of \$1500 each for
WNIR and WONE. Ms. Shock had presented the birthday party budget
and expenses spreadsheet of about \$26,000. The committee approved
the \$10,000 fireworks contract and additional lighting of the courthouse
during the birthday party. Items are coming in very close or under
expected expenditures.

Heritage Tours requested \$500 from the Portage Foundation grant. The
committee decided Ms. Craycroft will be asked to attend the next
meeting to more fully explain her event and its relation to the
Bicentennial theme, as well as the geo-caching that was not done.
Mr. Cheplowitz explained the situation with the County Employee
Recognition event having the Indians night also on July 25.



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Employees will receive 2 free tickets from the Human Resources department, which could cut into our sales. Any tickets over two, they can buy tickets for their children at \$11 if they donate \$5 to the Bicentennial Committee. Since Ohio law stipulates that counties can only spend up to \$20,000 on a bicentennial celebration, the HR department's buying the employee's tickets from our committee would be considered an additional donation over that limit, according to the county Prosecutor. The employee group had requested to use the Bicentennial logo, and the committee had a tie vote on whether they can do so if they fill out the logo contract.

Marketing:

Ms. Badger is doing a full page ad for the Memorial Recognition, and the Record Courier will also do an article and list of cemeteries with times of the events, with information provided by Ms. Riemenschneider. The Record Courier will cover some of the Memorial Recognition events. Calendar ads have been updated and are running in the Record Courier. The 8 page insert in the Record Courier is proceeding also, including historical information. News releases will also be sent to the Beacon Journal and Plain Dealer, as well as area weekly papers. Radio spots for the birthday party, parade and fireworks will run on two stations. Ms. Cordier will be working on additional publicity.

Sponsorships:

Mr. Cheplowitz reported that \$1,252.68 had been transferred to the Bicentennial Committee from the county's bicentennial funds. Mr. Enders presented the committee a check for \$50 that he received for speaking to a group about his timeline.

Committee Reports:

Coloring Contest (4/19/2008) Ms. Badger reported that the event went well with the children, although there was not a very large attendance. This was primarily due to the poor time the coloring contest was scheduled for by the Who's Your Mama organizers. The festival did not open until 11:00 but they scheduled the coloring contest for 10:00. Four bikes and helmets were awarded as prizes. Publicity was good, as photos of the children coloring were in the Record Courier, with the article after the event in addition to the pre-event publicity. She thanked Ms. Wilson and her grandchildren and Ms. Alexander as well as the Kiwanis for helping out that day.



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Memorial Recognition: (5/17/2008):

Ms. Riemenschneider reported that some communities have printed lovely programs for their events at the cemeteries. She distributed the plaques that will honor citizens chosen by the communities, who are buried in the community cemeteries. Articles have been in the Record Courier on individual community Memorial Recognition events. She will get information to Ms. Badger for the large ad and to the reporter. The commissioners will attend as will committee members, to award the plaques.

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

Ms. Wilson reported that she has over 60 units that will be in the Bicentennial parade, including historical characters Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Ravenna High band and the Chapparells Baton & Drum corps will provide music. Prizes will be given in three categories, for a total of 9 prizes. Judges are from NEOUCOM, Hiram College and KSU.

Mr. Enders is planning the “Living Timeline”, a 15-20 minute narrative of people throughout the county’s history. He is taking volunteers. The posters they hold will turn into the Portage County flag. This would be done before the fireworks.

Ms. Shock has booths scheduled for community groups and food vendors. Meetings are being held weekly with Ravenna City officials about the parade route, vendors, security and the fireworks requirements with Ms. Shock, Mr. Cheplowitz and various county safety officials. The courthouse will be closed at 11:30 and the parking lots will close Sunday night. Various streets will be closed for the parade and the after-work party. Maps of the party area were distributed.

Cleveland Indians Night (7/25/2008)

Mr. Lehman Passed out the flyers for the Indians game tickets and has been distributing them around the county. It has been posted on our website. He has more flyers available. The Record Courier will be given information on the game.

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

Mr. Badger has contacted the Black Stocking organization again and they are to get back to him about cost. He will ask them if they can



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provide old-fashioned uniforms for our “home” team, as suggested by Commissioner Keiper. The game is at 1:00 pm at Streetsboro Park.

Time Capsule: Ms. Riemenschneider is asking for interesting items to be added to the time capsule. She has a form she is designing which include questions about the item. She will work with students as well as Senior Citizens.

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: Nearly all communities have submitted their Road Show posters, and Mr. Westover is following up with the person that had some of them on his computer. He has a schedule of events and details on the events, and instructions for the driver.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 11, 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