



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

**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  
February 13, 2008  
Minutes**

**Attendance**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Portage County – Mark Cheplowitz and Charlene Badger; **Cities** of: Aurora-Christine Shock, **Townships** of: Deerfield-Bill Westover, Edinburg-Charlene Badger, Palmyra-Sam Vechter; Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown-Paul Galido, Shalersville-Deb Mazanec, Suffield-Ginger Sayre, Windham-Gayle Poots; **Villages** of: Brady Lake-Mayor Lehman, Windham-Kelly Meszaros and Mogadore-Jamie Cordier.

Excused Absence: City of Tallmadge; Townships of: Franklin, Freedom, Hiram, Mantua, Randolph, Rootstown; Villages of: Garrettsville, Hiram.

Unrepresented: Cities Kent, Ravenna and Streetsboro; Townships of Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Nelson, Paris and Suffield; Village of Mantua, Sugar Bush Knolls and Windham.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Mr. Cheplowitz welcomed the Committee.

Mr. Cheplowitz recognized the dedication of Kerry Macomber who has resigned from the Bicentennial Committee to devote her time to her new job with the Kent Regional Business Alliance. Mr. Cheplowitz expressed his and the entire committee’s appreciation for her efforts from the start of the Bicentennial project. The committee applauded Kerry and wished her well.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the February 9, 2008 minutes was moved by Mr. Vechtor; seconded by Ms. Meszaros. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

**Finance**

Mr. Cheplowitz reported that an application to use our logo was made by Standing Rock Cultural Arts. Their “Who’s Your Mama” Festival, is an Earth Day children’s event at the Kent Stage. We will be holding our Bicentennial Coloring Contest in conjunction with that event on April 19.

Mr. Enders moved and Mr. Vechtor seconded approval of the contract use of the logo. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cheplowitz said according to the spread sheet on funds, projects and donations, the Committee is within \$5,000 of the goal, plus a buffer for



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contingency. We will not need a buffer for the coloring contest now, since the venue and crayons have been donated and the coloring books paid for.

**Marketing**

Ms. Cordier said she had some new discussions with the Record Courier and is getting a total price on the deal with Communications Factory for advertising.

**Sponsorships**

Mr. Cheplowitz reported that we received a \$10,000 check from Hiram College and a \$15,000 check from Robinson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

**Sports**

Richard Badger will be chairing the Black Stocking baseball game. Ms. Shock has been in touch with Jim Krause, Director of Parks and Recreation in Aurora, on the field and date. The date will be clarified, possibly either Aug. 2 or 9, as will the location, in the near future. The committee decided that an actual baseball field is required, not an open field, due to reasons concerning safety, concessions, facilities.

**Committee Reports**

**Opening Gala (1/19/2008):** Ms. Mazanec reported that 208 people were seated at the dinner. Total income was \$17,520. Total expenses were \$11,561.55. Silent auction revenue was \$4,303. Grand total was \$9,861.45. Mr. Cheplowitz reported that the Board of Commissioners took over the cost of the Portage 100 booklet that was given at the Gala, and will use it as an economic development tool. They are looking at a mass distribution of the booklets.

**Memorial Recognition (5/17/2008):**

Ms. Riemenschneider has mailed and emailed the forms for the Memorial Recognition events to local officials.

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

Ms. Wilson is working on getting vehicles and other parade entrants. Ms. Shock is checking on 8-10 food vendors. Ms. Shock said Aramark, the jail food vendor, will donate cake to be baked at the jail. She may also ask Father Lavelle to make a birthday cake for display, but have cookies or cupcakes to serve which would be neater. Mr. Cheplowitz also suggested Deluxe Bakery in Ravenna, which would be near the birthday party location. It was also discussed that cookies could be individually bagged. There was also discussion that marching bands from the schools should be included in the parade. Mr. Vechter presented an idea for an entrant that would



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be a flag display. Ms. Badger moved and Ms. Shock seconded, that the confederate flags not be included. Upon verbal vote, motion passed. Ms.

Shock moved and Mr. Galido seconded, that food vendors not be charged for space. Upon verbal vote, motion passed.

**Road Show:** Mr. Westover reported that some areas do not have a poster, after being contacted. A new printer is needed for the posters, as the one we had used is not available now. Reese Sampson has the posters on computer files. The trailer is still needed. Ms. Badger will contact a printer to laminate the posters we have, to protect them from weather. She will also get a price from the artist who did the Portage 100, to see about drawing posters where the communities have not submitted one.

**Cleveland Indians Day (7/25/2008):** Mayor Lehman will get the flyer from the Cleveland Indians so we can get it on our website.

**Historical Play:** Mr. Cheplowitz reported that Hiram College was supposed to do the play, but we wanted it to travel to elementary schools and Hiram was not able to get back with us. He has met with a nationally known playwright originally from Portage County who has a play for K-6 grades. Everything will be included for \$6,500. Hiram now has also submitted a children’s play that they have used before. They have one for elementary schools and one for middle schools. Ms. Shock moved and Mr. Enders seconded the motion, to proceed to work with the playwright, pay him \$6,500, but also have Hiram do their play a few times with the remaining funds of \$1,500. Upon verbal vote, motion passed.

**Historical Timeline:** Mr. Enders presented the committee a copy of the Historical Timeline from 1669 to 2007 which the Historical Society will be selling and distributing to schools and libraries.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 12, 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 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Badger