

**Portage County Bicentennial Committee**  
**April 11, 2007**  
*Minutes*

**Attendance**

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Portage County - Mark Cheplowitz and Kerry Macomber; **Cities** of Aurora-George Horvat and Tallmadge-Sharon Alexander; **Townships** of Deerfield-Bill Westover, Freedom-Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Richard Masters and Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Palmyra-Mr. and Mrs. Sam Vechter, Paris-Bonita Lock, Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown-Paul Galido and Shirley Riemenschneider; Shalersville-Deb Mazanec and Don MacLearie, Suffield-Ginger Sayre, Windham-Brian Miller; **Villages** of: Hiram-Gery Henkels and Roger Cram, Sugar Bush Knolls- Jim Beal and Cheryl Smith, Windham-Sonya Edwards and Kelly Mezaros; **Guests:** Greg Musci, Family & Community Services, Inc.

Excused Absence: Cities of Kent and Ravenna; Townships of Brimfield, Charlestown, Edinburg, Mantua; Village of Garrettsville

Unrepresented: City of Streetsboro; Townships of Atwater, Franklin, Nelson; Villages of Brady Lake, Mantua, Mogadore

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the March 14, 2007, minutes was moved by Ms. Carter; seconded by Mr. Enders. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Opening Gala:** Ms. Mazanec reported on the three quotes received for the Opening Gala planned for January 19, 2008. The facilities considered were NEOUCOM, Kent State Ballroom and American Legion. Based on the comparison of prices, services offered and food budgets, the Committee is recommending NEOUCOM. Ms. Mazanec discussed the menu selections and how the price per individual was determined. Mr. Cheplowitz noted that a contingency rate will need to be considered and added to the bottom line. Ms. Mazanec noted that the maximum in attendance is 416, which means there are 52 tables for eight. Mr. Cheplowitz reminded all Committee members that they are responsible for selling at least one table or eight tickets to this event.

Mr. Vechter moved that the venue for the Bicentennial Opening Gala be NEOUCOM; Ms. Alexander seconded. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Musci gave the \$500 down payment to hold the conference center at NEOUCOM to Ms. Macomber. Ms. Mazanec will forward the payment to NEOUCOM and request a contract to reserve the space. Once the contract is received, she will forward it to the Prosecutor's Office for review. Mr. Cheplowitz will sign the contract to reserve the room.

**Finance:** Mr. Galido announced the Bicentennial has received \$1,550 and an additional \$3,650 has been pledged. Taking into account the \$500 check just written to NEOUCOM, the checking account balance is \$1,050.

**Prioritization of Events:** Mr. Cheplowitz explained that based on today's treasurer report, the Committee needs to prioritize events based on the realization that some events will not receive funding.

**Priority Listing of Bicentennial Events:**

1. Birthday Celebration (including parade)
2. Opening Gala
3. Legacy Project
4. Time Capsule
5. Coloring Contest
6. Memorial Recognition
7. Road Show
8. Calendar

**Self-Funded Events:**

1. Golf Outing/5-K
2. Historical Play
3. Cook Book
4. Religious Homecoming

**Education/ Events: (The following update was omitted from the meeting and is provided here for reference)** Mr. Cram gave the letters written by the Civil War soldier stationed in St. Louis to Ms. Macomber, who has placed them in the Commissioners' vault located in the Portage County Administration Building, 7<sup>th</sup> floor for safekeeping.

**History:** Mr. Enders provided the April 7, 2007 (Revised) Connecticut Western Reserve State of Ohio County of Portage Timeline 1669 – 1899 document.

**Parade:** Ms. Wilson submitted a report on the January 29, 2007 conversation with Jeanie Ferguson, the Portage County Bicentennial Parade Committee roster, and the Agenda for the April 12, 2007 Parade Committee meeting. Letters have been sent to school band directors inviting participation in the Parade.

**Road Show:** The information regarding the Road Show has been posted on the County's web site. Mr. Westover has contacted Maplewood Career Center

regarding building the structure to hold the community posters. Mr. Ramer, Director, Portage Solid Waste District, agreed to lend a trailer to the Road Show. Each Committee member was asked to check with their political subdivision about providing a truck and driver for the Road Show in each community parade.

**Sponsorship:** Mark Cheplowitz and Ms. Macomber have been actively pursuing and meeting with potential sponsors. The Portage County Bicentennial received Akron Beacon Journal coverage in the Sunday April 8, 2007 edition. The article featured the Legacy project.

**Legacy:** Ms. Alexander reminded the members that they will serve as a test group for the questionnaire at the May meeting and should arrive at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Cram announced that the Portage County Bicentennial has been selected for the cover of The User-Friendly Phone Book. This publication is distributed to over 78,000+ households and businesses in Portage County. In addition to the cover, they will also give us one page in the Community Information, which could be used to publish the Legacy Information Questionnaire.

**Cook Book:** Mr. Vechter reported that the recipes are coming in and they are planning on going to print no later than August 1, 2007.

**Calendar:** Ms. Macomber noted that only six responses have been received.

**Golf Outing:** Tentative date of August 17, 2007 and those interested in volunteering on the Committee should contact George Horvat.

**Miscellaneous:** Mr. MacLearie announced Shalersville Historical Society will be host an event April 22, 2006 with Civil War Ladies presenting a fashion show.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, 2007 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