

**Portage County Bicentennial Committee**  
**January 10, 2007**  
*Minutes*

**Attendance**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Portage County-Mark Cheplowitz, Chair and Kerry Macomber; **Cities of** Aurora-George Horvat, Kent-Chris Craycroft and Ravenna-Gary Locke; **Townships of** Brimfield-Sue Fields, Deerfield-Bill Westover, Freedom-Sallie Hubeny, Hiram-Richard Masters and Judy Wilson, Palmyra-Sam Vechter, Ravenna-Wayne Enders, Rootstown-Shirley Riemenschneider, Shalersville-Don MacLearie, Suffield-Ginger Sayre and Judi Allen and Helena Parry-Kelso House

Excused Absence: City of Tallmadge; Township of Franklin, Mantua, Randolph; Village of Garrettsville

Unrepresented: City of Streetsboro; Townships of Atwater, Charlestown, Edinburg, Nelson and Paris; Villages of Brady Lake, Hiram, Mantua, Mogadore, Sugar Bush Knolls and Windham

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the December 13, 2006, minutes was moved by Mr. MacLearie; seconded by Mr. Westover. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

**Chair Update**

Mr. Cheplowitz reported that he is actively pursuing leads for potential contributors to the Bicentennial activities. Each community representative is encouraged to assist in this effort by continually identifying businesses in their community and also by reminding their governmental authority that Mr. Cheplowitz would like to talk about ways that their community may be involved in the Bicentennial.

Mr. Cheplowitz remarked the budgets for the events, including a 20% contingency, brought the total cost of the Bicentennial to approximately \$265,000. He has developed two pools of sponsors: year-long and specific events. Under these categories are three levels: title, presenting and supporting. A chart outlining specific sponsorships is available by request from Ms. Macomber. Mr. Cheplowitz encouraged the Committee members to consider a proper distribution of surplus funds at the end of 2008, should that be the case.

### **Committee Reports**

**Memorial Recognition:** Ms. Riemenschneider requested that the cemetery clean up become known as the Memorial Recognition event and that it be promoted to honor notable or special citizens within a community. She plans on presenting the community with a certificate that could be displayed at the Town Hall. Ms. Sayre agreed to assist with mapping out a driving tour.

**Road Show:** Mr. Westover reported that he contacted East Manufacturing regarding a trailer. He envisions the trailer holding 12 posters on each side with four posters on the front and back for a total of 32 available sites. Ms. Wilson expressed concern that the posters would not be effectively viewed during a parade. Mr. Cheplowitz asked about possibility of using a larger vehicle, such as a semi. It was suggested that Miller Transfer Trucking may donate a semi-truck. Mr. Westover discussed insurance questions that will need to be addressed before final decisions can be made.

**Events:** Mr. Cheplowitz asked the Portage County Regional Airport Authority Board of Trustees if there was interest in holding an event during the Bicentennial. While the Board did express interest, there is no one at the Airport to coordinate the event. Mr. Cram volunteered to coordinate an Air Show event and will report back at the next meeting. Mr. Cram discussed the possibility of Aurora Historical Society's Antique Show becoming a Bicentennial Event. It was agreed criteria should be established for the different organizations that may want their events to be publicized as an official Portage County Bicentennial Event. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 7, 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 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Macomber