

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
May 9, 2007
Minutes

Attendance

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

Present: Portage County - Mark Cheplowitz and Kerry Macomber; **City** of Kent – Christine Craycroft; **Townships** of Deerfield-Bill Westover, Franklin-Marilyn Sessions, Freedom–Sallie Hubeny, Hiram- Judy Wilson, Mantua-Mark Hall, Palmyra-Sam Vechter, Randolph-Becky Carter, Ravenna–Wayne Enders, Rootstown–Paul Galido; Shalersville-Deb Mazanec, and Suffield-Ginger Sayre; **Villages** of: Hiram-Gery Henkels, Sugar Bush Knolls- Jim Beal, Windham-Kelly Mezaros; **Guests:** Helena Parry and Judi Allen, Kelso House and Ramona Stamm, Kent State University

Excused Absence: Cities of Ravenna and Tallmadge; Townships of Atwater, Charlestown and Edinburg; Villages of Garrettsville and Mantua

Unrepresented: Cities of Aurora and Streetsboro; Townships of Brimfield, Nelson, Paris, and Windham; Villages of Brady Lake and Mogadore

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the April 11, 2007, minutes was moved by Mr. Vechter; seconded by Ms. Sayer. Upon verbal vote, motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report

Mr. Cheplowitz announced the resignation of Mr. Horvat, Aurora representative and Sports Committee Chair. These positions need to be filled as soon as possible. Volunteers should contact Mr. Cheplowitz. Mr. Cheplowitz explained the prioritization of events at last month's meeting will dictate the committee's activities. For review, that prioritization is as follows:

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

Committee Reports

Finance: Ms. Carter explained that the Finance Committee has two new members: Mr. Elder, Huntington National Bank, and Richard Lombardi, Esquire. Ms. Carter has assumed leadership responsibility and requested that all committee chairs forward to her the most up-to-date budget information.

Checking Account balance: \$11,300, which includes donations to date from URS, Kiwanis Club of Portage County, Rootstown Sixty Plus Club, Wayne Enders, Neighborhood Development Services, Inc., MS Consultants, Inc., The Kiwanis Club of Ravenna and Kent State University.

Expenditures to date: \$500, NEOUCOM space reservation for the Opening Gala.

Operations: Mr. Beal forwarded a draft of the information for equipment and services as previously identified and stated that he will be working with Committee Chairs to identify additional information.

Preview (Calendar): As discussed at the last meeting, after many attempts at countywide advertising, there were not enough entries submitted to create a calendar. Therefore, the project for the art contest and calendar will not continue. Ms. Eiermann could not attend tonight, but has suggested that the entry fee be returned and the art work retained for possible future use. Ms. Macomber noted that some artists have requested that their original art work be returned. Mr. Westover moved that all artwork and entry fees be returned as submitted; Ms. Wilson seconded. Upon verbal vote; motion passed unanimously.

Sports: Mr. Cheplowitz discussed the activities and responsibilities of the Sports Committee Chair noting that this vacancy needs to be filled as soon as possible. He has one possibility and will pursue that with the City of Aurora. The Sports Committee is responsible for several activities including the golf outing, black stocking baseball game, and fun run. Mr. Vechter discussed the possibility of the American Legion in Atwater hosting a novelty golf game indicating that a 9-hole course could be developed on a 10 acre site. Discussion regarding the black stocking baseball game indicated a strong interest in pursuing that event, but there were no volunteers to chair the activity.

Volunteers: Ms. Macomber is continuing to build volunteer contacts and requests that any group contact names and numbers are forwarded to her.

Events/Activities:

Cookbook: Mr. Vechter indicated that there are enough recipes to organize into a cookbook. Ms. Macomber shared the Ohio Bicentennial Cookbook and the information on publishing received from that company. Mr. Henkels shared a cookbook published by Hiram College. It was agreed that the cookbook should be available for sale at this summer's events and Portage County Fair. Mr. Vechter indicated that he has information from other publishers as well and will present his recommendation for a publisher at the next meeting.

Legacy Project: Ms. Alexander tested the Legacy Project questionnaire with Bicentennial Committee members prior to this meeting. Ms. Alexander was not able to attend the Bicentennial Committee meeting, but received positive feedback from the members participating in the exercise. Ms. Alexander has indicated that the Legacy Committee continues to develop and additional training will be conducted in June. The questionnaire will be available on the County's web site. Ms. Parry, Kelso House, asked if donations could be directed to specific projects, such as this one. Ms. Macomber indicated that this is possible, through the sponsorship commitment letter and will forward a copy to Ms. Parry.

Opening Gala: Ms. Mazanec reported that the contract with NEOUCOM to reserve the space for the Opening Gala on January 19, 2008, needs to be signed and returned with the check for \$500 by May 18, 2007. The final ticket price has not been determined. However, after a 10% contingency was added, the target price is still \$100. Final quotes on invitations, printing, etc. are still outstanding. Ms. Sayer reported on the auction noting that she has contacted several donors, including Goodyear Blimp Operations in Suffield. Mr. Cheplowitz reminded everyone that each Committee Members will be required to sell at least one table of eight. Ms. Mazanec will provide a table layout floor plan with a dance floor configuration.

Parade: Ms. Wilson indicated that the Parade Committee has been actively recruiting participants. The Committee has been approached to partner with the Ronald McDonald House Tons of Tabs program. Mr. Cheplowitz questioned whether this activity aligns with our Mission Statement and also noted if the Ronald McDonald was to sponsor an activity such as this within our event, a fee would be charged. It was agreed there would be no partnership with this program. Ms. Macomber noted that Mr. Cram has forwarded a draft of the Application and Contract Use of the Portage County Bicentennial Committee Logo, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Road Show: Mr. Westover noted that Maplewood Carpentry class is building the road show structure with supplies generously donated by Carter Lumber. He has received one quote for reproducing posters onto the vinyl canvas. Ms. Macomber

received a quote for Communications Factory to develop a banner to recognize the sponsors for the Portage County Bicentennial Road Show, which includes design, layout and production. Information on the poster production will be available at the next meeting. Ms. Macomber indicated that Family & Community Services may have storage area available for the Road Show trailer. Mr. Westover has secured space for the Road Show with the Deerfield Farms display at the Portage County Randolph Fair.

Sponsorship: Mark Cheplowitz and Ms. Macomber have been actively pursuing and meeting with potential sponsors. Kent State University has pledged \$5,000.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 13, 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 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber