

Portage County Bicentennial Committee
January 11, 2006
Minutes

Attendance

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mark Cheplowitz, Chair; Portage County-Kerry Macomber; City of Streetsboro – Jana Dengg; Townships of Deerfield-Bill Westover, Palmyra – Sam Vechter, Ravenna – Wayne Enders, Rootstown – Shirley Riemenschneider, and Shalersville- Don MacLearie; Villages of Garrettsville-Teri Eiermann, Hiram – Roger Cram, Sugar Bush Knolls – Jim Beal and Windham-Marian Garrett

Absent: Cities of Aurora (excused), Kent, Ravenna and Tallmadge; Townships of Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Edinburg, Franklin, Freedom, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson (excused), Paris, Randolph, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham; Villages of Brady Lake, Mantua, Mogadore

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of December 14, 2005 was moved by Mr. Enders; seconded by Mrs. Garrett. Upon verbal vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Event Chair's Report

Ms. Eiermann reported that she and Mr. Horvat (City of Aurora) met with Geauga Lake Park Marketing Staff to discuss her idea of having a Portage County Bicentennial Day event at the park. The idea was well received and it was suggested to expand this idea into a five-day event. Discussion included possible entertainment, catering, and merchandising ideas. Ms. Eiermann will coordinate a follow-up visit to Geauga Lake park in May with additional committee members

Mr. Cheplowitz agreed to present this idea to the Board of Commissioners, with the understanding that Ms. Eiermann obtains a written proposal from Geauga Lake specifying what the Park will provide as well as what is expected of the Committee. Upon receipt, this will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for consideration as the approving authority. It was noted that it is customary to have the Prosecutor's Office review contracts before the Board of Commissioners approve. Mr. Enders suggested that a representative from the Prosecutor's Office be invited to join the Committee. Mr. Cheplowitz agreed to convey this suggestion to the Board of Commissioners.

In regards to holding the birthday celebration at Geauga Lake, Mr. Cheplowitz expressed concern about the entrance fee to the park. He stated that the actual

birthday party should be free and open to the public and that a central location in Portage County may be more convenient. Ms. Riemenschneider suggested that besides the Court House lawn, the Committee may consider the Ravenna Stadium as a possible location.

Flow Chart

Mr. Cheplowitz noted that in the Action Committee line, Sponsorship was missing and that he is responsible for obtaining sponsorships. Also, all activities and events, depicted on the second line on the flow chart, actually involve or flow through each of the action committees listed in the line above it. For example: Historical events require Public Outreach, Marketing, Volunteers, etc.

Ms. Dengg, City of Streetsboro, agreed to chair the Operations Committee. It was noted that Events should include Geauga Lake and Calendar and the Taste of Portage County should be removed. It was noted that the Hiram Plays should be included under Education. A revised Flow Chart is attached.

Event Descriptions and Budget Information for Marketing Packets

Mr. Cheplowitz requested that outstanding event descriptions and budgets be forwarded to Ms. Macomber by January 17, 2006. These will be used to develop a marketing packet to be presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Cram will develop a proposal in which to solicit assistance from public relation firms in providing marketing materials, graphic designs, logo development and schedules of events.

Phase II of Bicentennial Planning

Mr. Cheplowitz will meet with the Board of Commissioners next week to discuss Phase II – fund raising and gaining sponsors. Mr. Cheplowitz will also address compensation for his future involvement in the Bicentennial Planning process.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 8, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at the Coleman Professional Services Sue Hettrick Building at 3922 Lovers Lane (aka Loomis Pkwy), Ravenna OH 44266. Mr. Cheplowitz can not attend; Ms. Macomber agreed to facilitate the meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Macomber