



MINUTES

Bicentennial Committee of the Whole Meeting April 14, 2010

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Executive Committee Members

Frank DeWolf
Co-Chairman

Don Faulhaber
Co-Chairman

Midge Cassidy
Honorary Co-Chairwoman

Robert Kubicek
Honorary Co-Chairman

Mayor Jerry N. Hruby
Advisor

Larry J. Potla
Advisor

Committee Chairpersons

Events
Lynda Sabat

Finance
Virginia Price

Fundraising
Mark Jantzen

Historian
Jo Ann Bartsch

Projects
Brant Giere

Publicity
Jinny Farr

Secretary
Co-chair Bonnie Longo

Co-Chairman DeWolf called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the Human Services Gathering Room and introduced Co-Chairman Donald Faulhaber and Advisors - Mayor Jerry N. Hruby and Council President Larry Potla. He welcomed all members of the Brecksville Bicentennial Committee and especially thanked the members that have been attending meetings since June 2009. Co-Chairman DeWolf thanked everyone for their efforts and said that there is much more to do. There are only eight months until the Bicentennial kick-off Christmas Parade and only two and one half months until the 2010 Brecksville Home Days. A Silent Auction is planned on the same weekend as the 2010 Home Days weekend.

Seven new members were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves. Bob Schworm, a 25-year resident who lives in Echo Hills, is representing the Brecksville Kiwanis Club. Sylvia Johnson, 40-year resident and wife of former Councilman Tom Johnson, said that she was invited by Don Faulhaber to attend the meeting. Bill Rittman, resident since 1972, said that he retired from his job four years ago and is a member of the Kiwanis Club. He said that the Kiwanis Club is attempting to work with the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad on special activities in association with the Bicentennial. Lucille Wingard, resident of Broadview Hts. said that she is a member of the Tea Society. The group consists of 40 women who dress in period clothing and they are interested in participating in Brecksville Bicentennial event(s). Ann Flood, resident of Broadview Heights, is also a member of the Tea Society and would like to become involved in Brecksville Bicentennial activities. Cindy McCarty, resident of Broadview Heights since 1962, said that she attended Brecksville High School and is representing the Broadview Hts. Kiwanis. Neil Brennan, resident of Brecksville for 25 years and Brecksville Township for 42 years, is a former member of Brecksville City Council. He was invited by Rudy Rosales to become a member of the Parade Committee. There are currently 100 members of the Brecksville Bicentennial Committee and, hopefully, more people will be volunteering to help with the year-long Bicentennial programs and events planned in 2011.

Co-Chairman DeWolf welcomed Ted Lux and introduced Ashley Kurtz who will be handling the PowerPoint presentation on behalf of Jinny Farr. He said that the purpose of the Committee of the Whole meetings is to discuss what is going on with the various committees and sub-committees and also to provide committee members the opportunity to ask questions. He noted that volunteers can be a member of more than one committee if they so choose.

Co-Chairman DeWolf said that the Bicentennial Committee's purpose is to showcase the community by honoring the past, embracing the present, and envisioning the future during the year-long Bicentennial celebration. He said that many programs and events are planned for each month in 2011. He said that it will take a lot of help but that it will be a lot of fun, too.

Co-Chairman Faulhaber distributed an updated Bicentennial calendar of events. He reported that he went to a Kiwanis Club meeting on April 1st and that they will be holding the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra in November. Every effort is being made to make sure that dates for 2011 Brecksville Bicentennial programs and events do not interfere with events of other organizations, and vice versa. The Bicentennial calendar of events keeps changing and will be updated regularly. The Bicentennial Committee originally came up with 105 ideas for Bicentennial programs and events: that number was whittled down to 70 and now stands at 30. Many volunteers are needed to bring the programs and events to fruition.

Ellen Carouse and Diane Hutchison agreed to be Co-Chairs of a Silent Auction that will be held on the 2010 Brecksville Home Days weekend. The women introduced themselves and said that they were born and raised in Brecksville and are sisters to Councilman Lou Carouse. They asked for volunteers to help raise funds, solicit donations, etc. for the silent auction.

PUBLICITY/GRAPHICS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman DeWolf said that Ted Lux will be reviewing the Publicity/Graphics Committee information on behalf of Chairwoman Jinny Farr. Per the PowerPoint presentation, the 2011 Brecksville Bicentennial currently has 343 Facebook friends: there were 414 hits to the web site in one week. The Facebook page is constantly being updated and the word is getting out about the Brecksville Bicentennial. Ted Lux said that promotional items are one of the things that takes up a lot of the time for the Publicity Committee and that the committee is working on pricing for a number of items. Each edition of the Brecksville Bulletin contains information about Bicentennial programs and events planned in 2011 as well as a "Bicentennial Bit" about the history of Brecksville. Ted Lux said that future articles will also contain information about Brecksville Township. The Publicity/Graphics Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 P.M. at the Human Services Center.

HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

Chairwoman Jo Ann Bartsch reported that the Historian Committee is working on five projects and that the first installment of the Historical Program Series is complete. A dress rehearsal was recently held at the Brecksville Library and went extremely well. The Mayor said that he had the fortunate opportunity to attend the rehearsal at Brecksville Library of the first Historian Committee program, "The Center of It All." He said that he was so impressed: it was like watching a program on WVIZ. The Mayor said that if this is an indication of the type of work that the Historian Committee is doing that the program series will be absolutely outstanding.

Other projects being worked on are: A Family Memory Project; Adult Commemorative Book; Children's Activity Book (to be coordinated with BBH 3rd Grade Teachers – the book will be placed in the time capsule); 200th Birthday Book (which will not be complete until 2012 in order to document the 2011 Brecksville Bicentennial.) Mrs. Bartsch said that the Historian Committee needs writers and that the next meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 26th. Co-Chairman DeWolf thanked the Historian Committee for doing an outstanding job.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Bicentennial Ball Committee

Events Committee Chairwoman Lynda Sabat reported that the Brecksville Bicentennial Ball is scheduled on February 5, 2011 and will be held at the Embassy Suites on Rockside Road in Independence.

Bicentennial Ball Committee (Continued)

The venue accommodates at least 550 people. Corporate sponsorship of tables will be solicited to raise funds and sell tickets to the event. The committee is still working on details such as a band, decorations, valet parking, and other aspects of the Ball.

Silent Auction

A Silent Auction will be held on June 26-27, 2010 during the Brecksville Home Days. The committee is asking for donations of art objects, sports memorabilia, tickets to sporting events, etc. and other items that can be sold. Proceeds from the auction will be used for Bicentennial programs/events. Mrs. Sabat said that possibly the Chamber of Commerce would be willing to get involved in the silent auction and that additional volunteers would also be needed.

Parade Committee

Chairman Rudy Rosales reported that a Bicentennial Parade is scheduled on June 25, 2011 as part of the Brecksville Home Days. He gave the following update on potential parade participants:

Hilltop Garage has agreed to participate and provide mini tow trucks

Lolly the Trolley charges \$500 (a discounted price) per day for 3 hours and the trolley can accommodate 38 people

R. Rosales contacted Goodyear several times to inquire about the availability of the Goodyear blimp but has not received a response

The Oscar Meyer wiener mobile owned by Kraft is available but the committee will not know for sure until 30 days before the parade if it is available to Brecksville

The Parades Committee has the most recent list of Boy Scouts in and around Cleveland and will get an updated list in 2011

WVIZ will be contacted

The Parade Committee will attempt to get bagpipe players for the parade. It was noted that some organizations do it for free.

The Parade Committee is trying to obtain three autos made in Cleveland; Rudy Rosales is aware of a Templar that might be available in Brecksville

Awards will be given for community floats sponsored by developments within the community

Ellen Weiss raised the question whether the Shriners could provide their little cars for the parade: Mr. Rosales said yes.

Many volunteers are needed to help with the logistics of the 100-unit parade on June 25, 2011.

Ohio-Chautauqua

The Bicentennial Committee submitted a grant application to the State of Ohio Historical Association for the 2011 Ohio-Chautauqua Program. The group re-enacts historical productions for five communities in Ohio each year. Twelve cities in Northeast Ohio, including Brecksville, were interviewed as part of the grant application process. The Ohio-Chautauqua productions are held in a 60 x 90 ft. tent that can accommodate 500 people. The 150th Anniversary of the Civil War takes place in 2011 and, therefore, will be the theme in 2011. Other programs would be scheduled at the Brecksville Library during the week such as a question/answer session with the actors and workshops. The Brecksville Bicentennial Committee should know in May whether it has been awarded the Ohio-Chautauqua grant.

Kelley Circus

It is still a possibility that the Kelley Circus will be a Bicentennial event in August 2011: the venue for the event would be in the City of Broadview Heights.

Civil War Re-enactment

Co-Chair Faulhaber said that he and Co-Chairman DeWolf met with the Union General last Saturday. The Broadview Heights city complex is large enough to accommodate the encampment that would include four cannons, horsemen, and the 200 people involved in the re-enactment. This would be a two-day event scheduled in August 2011, and the Executive Committee has approved the event.

Hot Air Balloon Rides

Re-Max has offered to sponsor hot air balloon rides: the location for the event is yet to be determined.

Other matters

Mayor Hruby requests that committees have a "Plan B" for events and programs that are not confirmed such as Ohio-Chautauqua, etc. The Bicentennial Committee will share a booth at the 2010 Home Days events in Brecksville and Broadview Heights. The Mayor suggested showing a video about the Brecksville Bicentennial. The Bicentennial calendar of events and give-aways will be distributed and there will be Bicentennial memorabilia for sale.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Chairman Brant Giere said that the Projects Committee is a brainstorming group and that some projects and events cross over with other committees.

Historic Playing Cards

The Projects Committee is creating a deck of historic playing cards based on the 2011 Brecksville Bicentennial theme. Individual cards are being sold by committee members and range in price from \$60 for numbered cards to \$125 for picture or wild cards. Sylvia Fowler has forms available this evening for anyone who would like to buy a card, as well as samples of historic pictures that could be used. A buyer can choose to have a personal or historical photograph on the card.

There has not been much publicity about the historic playing cards project; however, there are currently only 24 cards left in the deck to sell. The process for producing the deck of cards takes several months and the committee plans to have 1000 decks of cards ready for sale by the kick-off of the Bicentennial year. An e-mail will be sent to BBH class representatives to ask if individual classes would like to sponsor a playing card. The Mayor reiterated that this is a fundraising project and that the decks of historic playing cards need to be ready for sale by the kick-off of the 2011 Brecksville Bicentennial. Co-Chairman Faulhaber wrote an article for the Brecksville Magazine to publicize this fundraiser and an article will also appear in the next edition of the Brecksville Bulletin.

With regards to the deck of playing cards with historic pictures, the Mayor said that the Bicentennial Committee needs to contact members of families that were long time residents of Brecksville to ask if they want to buy a card to honor their family. He gave the example that Bonnie Longo's father worked for the United Postal Service and that to honor his memory her family is sponsoring a playing card with a picture of the former Brecksville post office on SR-21. The backs of the playing cards will have a picture of the Old Town Hall. The Mayor said that he is sponsoring a card of all of the Mayors of Brecksville. He said that there are many great ideas relating to the playing cards and that the greatest fear is not that all of the cards won't be sold but that someone will miss the opportunity to purchase a playing card because they did not know about the project.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway

The Projects Committee has been in contact with the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway to plan a transportation-themed weekend for the 2011 Bicentennial celebration and hopes the program will include a canal boat, train rides, and a steam engine.

Next Projects Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Projects Committee is at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 20th, at the Red Brick House. Chairman Giere said that the committee needs additional members.

Co-Chairman DeWolf thanked Chairpersons Brant Giere, Lynda Sabat, and Rudy Rosales, committee and sub-committee members, for doing a great job.

Bicentennial Banner/Unveiling of War Monument

Mayor Hruby reported that a Bicentennial banner will be carried in the 2010 Memorial Day parade and that the new war monument on Public Square will be unveiled during the 2010 Brecksville Home Days celebration. The Mayor said that excitement is growing in the community about the 2011 Brecksville Bicentennial and that people are actively looking for historic items to share.

Donation of Historic Information

The Mayor said that Doris Diefenbach Powell, whose family owned Hilltop Farm Dairy, has provided quite a bit of historic information to the City. Her cousin Dale Diefenbach, a retired Librarian from Harvard College, digitized the 1911 Brecksville Centennial and 1961 Sesquicentennial books. The Mayor said that the City is very appreciative to Dale who worked very hard for two to three years on this project and that the books are online on the City's web site.

The Mayor said that a gentlemen brought in a Northfield Times poster about the 1938 Brecksville championship baseball team. The article referred to Elroy Bradley, a Brecksville resident who was on the team, and was subsequently drafted and played for the Boston Red Sox.

Bicentennial Committee members were asked to encourage family and friends that have lived in Brecksville a long time to look for historic items that they are willing to share for the Brecksville Bicentennial. The Mayor said that the Brecksville and Broadview Heights Historical Associations will ultimately be the benefactors of all that the Brecksville Bicentennial Committee is doing and that it is important to get younger people interested in the history of our community and involved in these organizations. He said that the stories of the community and the special people that shaped it need to be told and preserved and left as a legacy for years thereafter.

Bicentennial Kick-off Christmas Parade

The kick-off for the 2011 Brecksville Bicentennial celebration will be the 2010 Christmas parade that will start on SR-82 and end behind City Hall. There will be a large Christmas tree on the baseball field, a Christmas show, and fireworks display. If the weather is very bad, some of the programs may be moved into City Hall or the Community Center. The Mayor said that years ago the tradition was to light two big Christmas trees - one on Public Square and one in front of Dorcas Snow's house. In subsequent years the merchants lined SR-21 with individual trees. The City is going to follow that tradition for the Bicentennial by having a large tree behind City Hall and another somewhere in the downtown. The rest of the town will be decorated by the City in the way it normally does.

Finance Committee

Mayor Hruby thanked Council President Larry Potla and all members of Council for their support and said that City Council has earmarked a lot of seed money for the Bicentennial and will be supporting the Bicentennial Committee throughout the process. He asked Council President Potla to pass the Bicentennial Committee's appreciation on to all members of Council. He also thanked everyone present for doing a wonderful job.

Historic Books

Writers are needed for the book projects. Families are encouraged to write and tell their stories about their experiences of living in Brecksville and the contributions they made to the community. The stories will be kept by the Brecksville and Broadview Heights Historical Associations so that family members can come back in the future and find their name in the records. Mayor Hruby said that we all want to be remembered and this is an outstanding way to accomplish it. He encouraged everyone that has a story about Brecksville families or individuals that had an impact on their lives to write about it.

The Mayor concluded his comments by telling everyone to keep up the good work and keep the ideas coming. He said that he believes the Bicentennial Committee's greatest idea has not been found and conquered yet. Committee members were encouraged to enlist new members to help bring the many Bicentennial programs and events to fruition. Ellen Carouse and Diane Hutchison need help with the Silent Auction that will be held during the 2010 Home Days. The Mayor said that while all of the events take a lot of work, the committees are having a lot of fun sharing stories and ideas and planning for the events. He thanked everyone again for their efforts.

Entertainment Committee

Co-Chairman Scott McPherson said that Brecksville Theatre on the Square is working with Brecksville Little Theater to co-produce the musical "Music Man." He said that he believes space has been secured at the high school for the production and the committee is hopeful that the school might waive the rental fees. At the committee's next meeting, there will be discussion concerning how many volunteers can be counted upon from the theater groups to direct and advertise for open positions, and Co-chairman Frank Wilson will be talking about staffing and timing. The committee will also be gathering information about some of the events planned by other groups to avoid staffing and scheduling conflicts. Pricing for securing rights to rent scripts and to perform the show has been discussed and most of the entertainment budget has been compiled: a preliminary budget will be submitted to Mayor Hruby.

The Mayor said that Brecksville Little Theater, Brecksville Theatre on the Square, and the Spot Lights of Broadview Heights are going to theme their programs in 2011 on historic events. Brecksville Little Theater will be doing "Inherit the Wind", "Celebrate" (a montage of music and plays from 1941); and "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Theatre on the Square is performing the musical "Annie" and an original historical program. The Mayor said that a play written by Winnie Flynn for the re-dedication of the Old Town Hall will also be shown or performed.

Churches and Organizations in the Community

Mayor Hruby said that local churches, civic organizations, and neighborhoods are being asked to participate in the Bicentennial parade and events. He said that the City is hopeful that all local entities will base the themes of their 2011 events on the Bicentennial and that individual organizations will write their history and give it to the historical associations. For example, the first horse show in Brecksville was held in 1946, and the Mayor suggested that the Kiwanis Club write the history of the Horse Show. He said that there are a number of historic churches in the community that are also being asked to write about their history. St. Basil's is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and has asked the City for assistance in compiling its history and telling of their story. The Mayor said that the City wants St. Basil's and the other churches to participate in the Brecksville Bicentennial celebration and to preserve their history by giving the written stories to the Brecksville Historical Association. Bicentennial Committee members were asked to spread the word to the churches, clubs, organizations, etc. about writing their histories and preserving them with the historical associations. The Mayor said that many civic clubs and organizations had floats in the 1961 Sesquicentennial parade and will be asked to have a float for the Brecksville Bicentennial parade.

Car Show

Co-Chairman DeWolf asked the group if there are any questions or suggestions. Ellen Carouse asked if the Al Koran Shriners had been contacted to provide their little cars for the parade. Mr. Rosales said yes that the Shriners have agreed to participate. Co-Chairman DeWolf said that Bob Pech has agreed to chair a car show consisting of 150 vehicles in front of the Central School during the 2011 Home Days celebration. The committee hopes that there will be special vehicles such as a Ford concept car or a hybrid energy efficient car in the show. The cars will be judged and awards presented prior to the Bicentennial parade. Some of the award winning cars will be in the parade.

House of LaRose Clydesdale Horses

The Executive Committee asked the House of LaRose if the Clydesdale horses would be available for the 2011 Brecksville Home Days weekend. House of LaRose said that since it is over a year away they can almost guarantee the availability of the Clydesdales. There is much excitement about this possibility because the Clydesdales would be here for a whole weekend and be a great draw for the Bicentennial celebration.

Next Committee of the Whole Meeting

Co-Chairman DeWolf concluded the meeting by reminding everyone that more Bicentennial Committee members are needed. The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 12th, at 7:00 P.M.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

/ms

Co-Chairman Frank DeWolf

Co-Chairman Donald Faulhaber