

## Sesquicentennial Steering Committee

Minutes: June 25, 2008

Members present: C. Alwood, L. Anderson, K. Beebe, M. Brandell, S. Davidson, R. Denslow, C. Lapham, M. Lapham, J. Pamp, K. Voeks, R. Young.

Corrections to May 21, 2008 minutes: 1. Under Schools – '\$1000 could be put toward the cost of a 15 minute video for the middle school.' 2. Addition of 'Submitted by Margaret Lapham.' It was moved by Keith Voeks and seconded by Clair Lapham to accept the minutes of May 21, 2008 with corrections. Approved.

**Public Comment.** Loren announced the upcoming Garden Walk and brought tickets for anyone interested.

Christine asked if anyone had questions or comments regarding Saturday's newspaper article with interviews of committee members and former members. The article seemed fair. The committee needs to present a positive attitude to the community.

Keith reported the Farm Bureau Agricultural Village at Summer Fest was a success and he will approach them about participating in the Sesquicentennial.

**Historical Representation/Oral History:** Robert & Ron have not had a meeting yet. Ron planned to meet with sub-committee members. Christine will try to contact Ron for an update.

**Book Sales:** The initial response is light. The order sheet was sent out in the recent Chamber direct mailing at no cost to the committee; it is free to us only once. The Chamber may offer us a good rate next time. Order forms are on the web-site. Loren attends various events to promote sales when possible.

**Schools:** We received the Rotary grant in the amount of \$2856. Christine will see if grant funds have to be accepted by the commissioners. Kathy will write a news release.

Mary Ellen and Nancy met with Jack Westbrook and downloaded his photos. They have selected pictures to use as a model for the booklet for 3rd graders, which will be an activity/history of Isabella County. Mary Ellen has a good outline and is getting prices. She also has an illustrator. It will have the Rotary seal and donated by Rotary on the back. The Sesquicentennial seal will be on the front.

Jack Anson will work on oral histories for the power point video for older students.

There are still a few grants available to thousands of students. Art Reach has grants available, need to apply by August 1. There will be 2 more opportunities before August 2009 to apply for Art Reach grants. Kathy and Mary Ellen will work on application.

Mary Ellen asks for approval when working with persons such as the Retired School Personnel to give the ok for projects they are working on or decisions they have to make regarding the Sesquicentennial. This is fine as long as we keep informed and stay within parameters.

### Event Planning/Time Capsule:

Mayflower and North American moving vans are available to use for moving museum. The companies asked if we could help with cost of gas for transporting from site to site. Steve may be able to get other companies to move the trailers at no charge to us. As soon as we get one, Steve can get it painted and have shelves made. Discussion: We need groups or individuals to provide items for display. It would be nice to change the display throughout the year. Displays could follow a theme. Possible sources are Sherry Sponseller, Historical Societies, Joyce McClain, Loren Anderson, Clarke Historical Library.

### February 11, 2009 Pre-Event:

Steve presented outline. Consultant has given a proposal for the dinner, Buok's Run is working on a proposal. Rich is doing an information search regarding the 100- year time capsule. The Morning Sun is looking through their archives also. If there are no stipulations we will open it. Deni Starnes, S.H.A. school principal, is willing to chair school participation for this event. Discussion: Could we do a reception and silent auction here, since everyone is already here? It would cost less. Parking may be a concern. Centennial Hall, Soaring Eagle & Aramark may also be possibilities for a dinner. Mt. Pleasant High School Jazz Band, and a presentation of humorous, true events are possibilities for entertainment. Brainstorm ideas to name the event and e-mail to Steve.

Beard Contest: Steve presented proposed dates, categories and rules. Cash prizes sponsored by Lapham's Garden Center. Will finalize prizes with Clair and decide on judges. Consider inviting local officials & legislators to participate.

Volunteers: Ad will be in paper for July 3rd & 8th sign-up dates when Steve will be available at County Building. Also have volunteer sign-up available on line. Still need someone to organize dress contest. Saturday, July 5, volunteers are needed to sell tickets & shirts in Rosebush at July 4th celebration.

We have use of an enclosed trailer from Shepherd Public Schools. We need 2 banners to cover Shepherd School name, and could use 3. Cost for a 4' x 8' banner is \$41.30. Motion by Clair Lapham to approve purchase of 3 Sesquicentennial banners at total cost not to exceed \$150. Seconded by Robert Denslow. Approved.

Responses to the Event Sponsorship letter are dwindling. Steve has started follow-up and will see if Robyn can help. Perhaps we can break down the list and each of us talk to people we know. Steve will see if Minde Lux has found out the cost of a Morning Sun insert.

Steve has acquired a trailer house frame to build a float to enter in area parades. Discussion followed regarding building/decorating the float, location while building and the feasibility of such a large float. Logistics will need to be looked at and worked out. Steve has already talked with MDOT regarding route using state roads.

### Publicity/Communication:

Kathy will write up news releases for the beard contest, school activities, the February 11th Pre-Event, grants we receive, etc. as they come up.

Christine presented a thank you card, which Robyn put together, with a personal note to Mr. Nitschke. We need to have some blank cards like this on hand for thank-you notes. We can start with 100 black & white, printed on card stock.

**Fundraising:**

Christine asked if we could think of an item, which could be built by Mt. Pleasant Tech students, for a fund-raiser for this committee. A small-scale replica of a wagon might sell well and not be complicated to build. Historical sub-committee will look into wagon styles. We need someone to underwrite the cost and we would auction the items off.

**Avenue Banners:** Foltz's Screen Printing will undertake sponsorship. Clair presented their price list and sample banner. This committee will make \$25 off each banner. Each of us could have a sample banner to solicit orders. Banners can be hung at homes or businesses or hopefully on the banner poles throughout the city & Union township. Motion by Steve Davidson to approve Foltz's proposal for Sesquicentennial Avenue Banners, seconded by Judy Pamp. Approved.

**Time Capsule:** Steve brought the Shepherd 150 year time capsule to give us ideas. Enclosed were calendar, tie, newspaper of events, flyers, mini-banners, photos of quintuplets, diskettes with Sugarbush videos & slides. Isabella County's time capsule will be placed by cupula.

**Website:** Next meeting we will have a new photo taken of the committee. Wear Sesquicentennial shirts.

**Gun Raffle:** Raised \$150 at Mt. Pleasant Summer Fest.

**Treasurer's Report:** We still have to pay back 2 \$1000 loans. The checking account we opened at Isabella Bank is closed. The county has 1 account for funds for this committee and will provide reports. Current balance is \$1327.90 with 2 deposits pending. Motion by Clair Lapham to authorize Christine to repay loans as the funds become available, seconded by Robert Denslow. Approved.

**Intern Report:** Robyn has contacted Apple about donating prizes for school contests. We have a couple options and she will forward info to Mary Ellen.

Research on the Underground Railroad indicates Isabella County had no substantial trails. Possible haunted places tour could replace Underground Railroad. Some info is available. Robyn will be unable to attend next meeting July 23.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Lapham, Secretary