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POSITIVELY
PROMOTING
PIQUA

PPP Citizens Committee Formed

In May of 2011, the community-improvement group Positively Promoting Piqua announced formation of a 17-member Citizens Committee. Jim Brown, spokesman for the group, said, "This is an important step in our organization's development. It makes us broader and deeper and provides an outstanding representation of the many people who share our belief in Piqua's future."

The inaugural meeting of the Citizens Committee was held on Thursday, May 19, at Hartzell Propeller in Piqua. The members of the PPP Citizens Committee, all Piqua citizens, include: Craig Barhorst, Randy Cissner, Renee Copsey, Pam Ford, Jean Franz, Margaret French, Larry Hamilton, Harold (Hal) Heiner, Barb Hudson, Paul (Skip) Jackson, Kyle Magoteaux, Karen McNeil, Brian (Skip) Murray, Earl Slater, Jim Vetter, Chris Ward, and Dean Ward.

Said Brown, "The Citizens Committee is designed to reflect the broad spectrum of PPP's supporters. The Committee members come from across Piqua and include wage earners, retirees, and responsible property owners, as well as business and civic leaders. This diversity is consistent with PPP's intentions since our inception."

Brown continued, "We are exceptionally proud that so many outstanding individuals from across Piqua have stepped forward to help Piqua be the best it can be."

Brown noted that the Citizens Committee will serve, to a large extent, as the "eyes and ears" of Positively Promoting Piqua. "We expect this Committee will provide PPP with information and constructive suggestions from PPP members, and from persons outside our organization, on projects, activities, and other good and positive things in Piqua that deserve our support."

Brown continued by stating that "PPP will also be looking to this Committee to study, in depth, important issues that affect our community. We are asking these folks to perform a high-level

function, providing us with not only information but their recommendations for action on critical issues. We intend to take their recommendations seriously."

In addition, Brown pointed out, the PPP Citizens Committee "greatly deepens our capabilities in terms of positive action to implement our ideas. They will assist in carrying out personally, and in some cases delegating, tasks associated with our mission. I believe we will soon find that this group can have a marvelous impact in helping all of us here in Piqua move our community forward."

The PPP Citizens Committee, which will work closely with the group's Steering Committee, will meet regularly and eventually expects to conduct its meetings throughout Piqua," Brown said. "Positively Promoting Piqua is a community organization. It represents people from throughout Piqua who support what PPP is trying to do. We expect that this group will reach out, geographically and otherwise, to inspire a vital and active civic spirit throughout our community."

Brown summed up his enthusiasm over the Citizens Committee's formation. "It's apparent to me that many people agree with us that Piqua's best days may lie ahead. However, we realize that a great future for our community is not inevitable. We need to stand up and pull together constructively to help Piqua improve and grow. We have to make it happen. We greatly appreciate the commitment of these 17 outstanding citizens to help accomplish this through the Positively Promoting Piqua Citizens Committee. We congratulate them and look forward to working with them."

Brown concluded by noting that those interested in learning more about PPP can visit its web site at positivepiqua.org or find Positively Promoting Piqua on Facebook.

Mission statement

We are Positively Promoting Piqua, a diverse group of Piqua citizens, including wage earners, retirees, responsible property owners, and local business, professional and civic leaders, united to help Piqua be the best it can be and focused on positive efforts to help Piqua improve and grow as an outstanding community in which to live and work.

PPP Citizens Committee Swings Into Action

The community-improvement group *Positively Promoting Piqua* has grown and diversified. Through its 17-member Citizens Committee, PPP is “starting to really get after the business of working to help Piqua improve and grow,” says spokesman Jim Brown. Formed in May, the Citizens Committee has now met three times. Notes Brown, “These folks are digging in. They have gotten to know one another better, formed working groups, and established priorities. They are moving forward briskly with both near- and longer-term goals.

“These are the nuts and bolts of becoming an effective organization,” said Brown. “It has been fascinating to see the Citizens Committee gel. We are very encouraged and hopeful about what is to come.”

PPP, which was formed in the fall of 2010, is governed by a nine-person Steering Committee, consisting of Chair Dan French, Jim Brown, Dan Ramer, Mike Gutmann, Ryan King, Doug Haines, Frank Barhorst, Stacy Scott, and Alissa Blankenship. In May, the Citizens Committee met for the first time.

The Citizens Committee’s functions include providing information to the Steering Committee and recommendations for action on critical issues. Brown notes that the Citizens Committee has formed four subcommittees, focused on Community Spirit, Community Beautification, City to Citizen Communications, and Great Neighborhoods. Each has a distinct mission but the subcommittees “are definitely complementary,” says Brown.

Citizens Committee meetings typically begin and end with all members present, Brown pointed out. But the middle of the meeting consists of break-out sessions among the subcommittees. “The meeting on July 11 offered some clear signs that these work sessions are productive,” says Brown. He offered a quick summary of the subcommittees and their work.

| Subcommittee Name | Chair(s) | Other Members | Near-Term Goals | Preliminary Thoughts as to Longer-Term Goals |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Great Neighborhoods | Frank Barhorst Jim Brown | Dean Ward Craig Barhorst Jim Vetter Craig Barhorst Dean Ward Skip Murray | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring & fall clean up • Organizing yard clean up & landscaping opportunities. • Reinforce desire to clean up. • Seek volunteers – cub scouts, Interact and Key Clubs, community groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of existing neighborhood groups. • Funding. • Look at property ordinances, adopt ordinances and enforcement. • Invest in properties, fix them up & sell them. |
| Beautification | Stacy Scott | Jean Franz Chris Ward Pam Ford Barb Hudson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate our efforts with the City’s efforts where appropriate. • Meet with other groups working on the downtown beautification (e.g., Mainstreet Piqua). • Organize landscapers to help with nature projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and unification with signs and landscaping at entrances. • Hold businesses more responsible for the appearance of their businesses (e.g., weeds). • Updates on Pool, modified Skate Park. • Railroad bridge over US 36 on entry to Piqua, sign should be repainted in Piqua Colors – suggested slogan: “The Path to Success Runs through Piqua” |
| City to Citizen Communications | Mike Gutmann | Renee Copey Skip Jackson Hal Heiner Earl Slater | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPP representation at City Commission meetings & other city meetings. • Clarify and publicize plans for old Piqua Memorial Hospital site. • Keep Steering Committee apprised of openings on City boards and committees. • Representative of each ward to meet quarterly or monthly with City Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Manager needs to make an explanation of key projects to the newspaper a week ahead of the City Commission meeting. • Newspaper, ombudsman for City Manager. • Better communication needed with City Chamber, Grow Piqua Now, Mainstreet Piqua. • Advisory committee for the Commissioners |
| Community Spirit | Ryan King Doug Haines Acting Chair: Amber Lange | Randy Cissner Karen McNeil Kyle Magoteaux Margaret French Larry Hamilton | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we get our news? • Identify the Negative Attitudes. • Leverage our Facebook page and other means of communicating positive news | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the Assets of Piqua – Schools, Businesses, Parks – relay to all. • Identify the opportunities of existing & future volunteer opportunities. • How do we get the positive press to everyone? Mailer to everyone? Email to all businesses? Channel 5 – newspaper – spotlight website. |

What's Happening in Piqua

Planned Beautification Projects:

US-36/I-75 Beautification. Grant money is funding the landscape project at exit ramp entrances.

Water Street Streetscape. Improving streetscape between Wayne & Main in prep for ODOT R36 resurfacing.

Gateway – Wayfinding Signs. Mapping and identifying entries/featured spots, includes City mgt, Main Street & citizens, plan expected late 2011. Will implement signs in stages as funding allows.

High, Wayne & Market Streets. Pedestrian safety & streetscaping currently being planned.

SRTS, safe routes to school. Grant funding will be used to improve intersections and plantings.

Power Plant. Decommissioned/not reuseable, REDO: Decommissioned/not reuseable, environmental study to demolish & reuse. \$2M grant requested of \$5M cost to demolish; may start with partial demolish of back portion by 2012. Final goal provide desirable river access & develop rec opportunities environmental study to demolish & reuse. \$2M grant requested of \$5M cost to demolish; may start with partial demolish of back portion by 2012. Final goal provide desirable river access & develop recreational opportunities.

OSFC – Ohio Schools Facility Commission. State funds are available (47%), limited time, to build three new bldgs for pre-K to 6th grade. City provided site assistance and recommended Hospital, Washington, & Favorite Hill locations.

Former Hospital. \$2M CORF approved, will provide funds to complete remediation & demolition; current owner agreed to sell to City for \$1.00. City goal to have property redevelopment ready by fall of 2012.

East Ash Street, Spring St to River. Widening of street planned; City plans to add light posts & some trees, project begins 2012.

N County Rd 25A. Project planned to widen 25A to Looney Road, and add landscape enhancement near interstate intersection.

Riverfront Mill District. Lock 9 to E. Main Street bridge extending west to Zollinger Bldg and north to High Street. Redevelopment and or renovation of existing infrastructure to establish area as central recreation/major bike path interchange. Encourage business opportunities concerning biking & river sport activities, arts and entertainment and downtown living.

Supporting Our Public

Amenities

Our public amenities, including our streets, our city parks and other recreational areas, our schools and our public library, make up an important part of the fabric of the Piqua community. We must work together as a community to support them and keep them in good condition and appropriately funded.

The Importance of Great Neighborhoods

We want Piqua and its neighborhoods to be the best they can be. The appearance of our neighborhoods, and our willingness as a community to stand up for their appearance, are vital. The majority of Piqua people take pride in their property and our neighborhoods. But we cannot afford to ignore neighborhood blight and its negative effect on our community as a whole. For this reason, Piqua needs to continue its focus on improving our neighborhoods.

Putting Our Best Foot Forward, to Help Grow Piqua Now

We need to constantly recognize that Piqua competes with many other communities for businesses, jobs and people. We need to act and look our best, to help **Grow Piqua Now** succeed.

A Great Future for Piqua

We see Piqua as a community with a great future before it. We need to work together, in a positive and cooperative manner, to achieve this vision and sustain it, for Piqua's citizens today and those coming after us.

KEY FACTS: PIQUA CITY SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Piqua is at the head of the line to receive state money that will help build three new schools (two Pre-Kindergarten through third grade and one new building to accommodate fourth through sixth grades) with the state paying 47% of the costs.

School-building consolidation is needed and has been approved by the Board of Education, so it will be a reality no matter what happens at the polls in November. The people's choice, however, is whether Piqua will continue to operate old buildings that are costly, or provide up-to-date buildings for the future that are efficient to operate. Our 47% share of the state money has been approved by the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) and is safe from Columbus budget cuts. For years Piqua citizens have seen their tax dollars construct schools throughout the Miami Valley and other parts of the state. Now it's our turn to receive over \$25 million from the state.

To receive the state money, voters will be asked to provide the local share (53%) through a bond issue on the November 8 ballot. Cost will be 4.92 mills (including one half mill for maintenance) or \$12.56 a month for the owner of a home valued at \$100,000.

While Piqua's schools have improved dramatically, studies have shown that students and teachers work best in bright, hospitable environments with the latest in technology and student safety devices. New schools will give our outstanding teachers a better environment and the tools they need to continue increasing student achievement.

This project was recommended by a 40-member, citizen-based Facilities Planning Committee that conducted two community-wide forums that maximized community input.

If Piqua turns down the state money, the funds will be sent to some other community. This literally is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our area, providing good construction jobs for hundreds of citizens while offering a "47 percent off sale" for every taxpayer.

In addition to construction, the state funds can be used to tear down buildings that will no longer be needed--eliminating the possibility of abandoned buildings in our neighborhoods. The proposed site of the 4-6th grade building, site of the former Piqua Memorial Hospital, will be "shovel ready" at no cost to the school district when construction begins, eliminating an eyesore and putting that land to productive use once again.

A significant short-term benefit from this project will be a huge economic boost to our community with the impact of a \$55 million construction project. And in the long term, this opportunity will give EVERY future Piqua child equal school facilities.

Your questions are welcome about the Piqua School Construction Project. Please call Superintendent Rick Hanes at 937-773-4321.

Striving To Be an Outstanding Community

Piqua needs a comprehensive program to make our community a great place – and a more attractive community for our citizens, our businesses, their employees, and business leaders.

Keeping Piqua on a Path Forward

We need to keep our City on a positive, progressive path – poised for economic development and providing an excellent quality of life for our citizens.

Speaking Up for Positive Solutions

Affirmative, positive action by the many Piqua citizens who agree with our principles is needed to oppose the forces of negativity in our community. Remaining a silent majority on Piqua's future is not a viable option.

A Well-Informed Community

We need to work together to provide the community with accurate information on issues that affect the citizens of Piqua.

Forward-Thinking Leadership Committed to Working for Piqua as a Whole

We need elected representatives and city officials who are intelligent, well-informed, experienced and forward thinking, who are committed to working for the benefit of Piqua as a whole, who face our problems squarely, who want Piqua to be a strong, clean, and safe community in which to work and live, and who develop and implement innovative programs to achieve these objectives.

DAY OF HONOR COMMITTEE INVITES VOLUNTEERS, CONTRIBUTIONS

As the tenth anniversary of 9/11 approaches, Piqua residents are coordinating a unique remembrance ceremony to celebrate the lives of nearly 3,000 innocent victims whose lives tragically ended at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Shanksville, PA. as the result of a coordinated suicide attack by al-Qaeda upon U.S. shores.

“A Day of Honor” to honor victims and their families will be observed on Sunday afternoon, September 11, at the Hance Pavilion at Fountain Park, according to co-chairs Michael Yannucci and the Rev. Kazy Blocher Hinds who are coordinating the event under the sponsorship of the Piqua Association of Churches.

Dozens of volunteers have already been solicited to serve on committees which range from marketing/public relations, facilities, grounds preparation and maintenance, entertainment, audio visual presentations and photography to food service, security, creation and production of a commemorative booklet and field of honor.

Yannucci suggests the program will serve as an “opportunity for Piqua area residents to come together in remembrance of the (2001) attack and to unite in an afternoon as family and friends.” Rev. Hinds, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, echoed his remarks suggesting that the “tone of the day will be one of honor and family-not necessarily somber but respectful and friendly.”

The Piqua remembrance -which is totally free and open to the public-will begin with complimentary hand-dipped ice cream and homemade apple pie served to all who attend. A procession of military, church, police, fire and color guard units will precede a Service of Remembrance and Hope which will take place in the Hance Pavilion with bagpipers performing “Amazing Grace”. A contingent of the city's fourth graders-children born in 2001-will help lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Children will be selected based upon an essay competition with winners given complimentary t-shirts and an appearance at the September 11 event. Members of the Piqua Civic Band will provide a live musical performance and also accompany a featured soloist.

Both Yannucci and Hinds note that the featured speaker will be a family member directly impacted by the 9/11 attack. In addition, the service will also feature music from the Piqua High School Concert Choir plus special presentations on “where we were” on September 11, 2001 along with positive milestones which have occurred since that horrific date.

The Rev. Michael Myers, president of the Piqua Association of Churches, indicated the Day of Honor event will be “commercial free” with no logos, signs or sale of items which might “distract from or dilute the focus and spirit of honor for these individuals and families whom we will be remembering.”

The executive planning committee instrumental in executing the city-wide event includes both Yannucci, Hinds and Myers along with Marilyn Halteman and Duane Bachman. A broad-based steering committee comprised of representatives from numerous community organizations has been meeting on a regular basis to coordinate the September 11 event. Volunteers who would like to get involved are asked to contact either Rev. Hinds at 773-0564 or Yannucci at 773-3161 and indicate their area of interest.

Although the program is free of charge to the public, expenses will be incurred, noted the organizers. To offset costs, Piqua residents and businesses are encouraged to mail their tax-deductible contributions to the Piqua Association of Churches, P.O. Box 356, Piqua, OH. 45356 and kindly place “9/11” in the memo line of the check.

Committee Member Gordon Wise noted “Just as 9/11 was a day we will always remember, this decade-later event will be one that will stick in our memories for a long time.”