

Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce

General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2010

12:00 Noon, Dan's River Grill

Attendees: Ray Berg, Bill Chizmar, Barry Allen, Peggy Allen, Neal Billetdeaux, Dee Miles, Michele Ingalls, Karl Racenis, Jesse O'Jack, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Janet Larson, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy LaHaie, Elizabeth Beaudoin, Sue Gisting, Bruce Bates, Jana Miller

Meeting called to order at 12:30 PM, introductions, agenda with additions motioned for approval by Barry Allen, second by Michele Ingalls, approved.

Program

Neal Billetdeaux and Dee Miles, Riverfolk Organization board members, updated members on current planning by the Riverfolk Organization to revise the format and schedule of the August 2011 Riverfolk Festival. A handout provided the proposed format of the new "Celebrate the Arts" Festival to be held August 3-6, 2011. The proposal eliminates the Saturday Carr Park event and replaces it with a downtown arts/music event, and strengthens the other events to provide a continuous theme over the four-day festival. The economic reasoning behind these proposed changes was also presented. Members discussed these proposed changes and the effect on other events such as Run Manchester, held the same day. The Riverfolk Board will keep MACC members posted on further developments.

Secretary's Report – Motion to approve Barry Allen, support Sharon Curtis, approved.

Treasurer's Report – none

Reports from Standing Committees

Manufacturers – none

Membership – noted new members

DDA – brief update on M-52 project and possible schedule changes

Website/Facebook – request to provide 2011 Community Calendar information to Karl Racenis, number of Facebook fans continues to grow, new events posted.

Old Business

Members discussed the October 31 Caramel Apple Event, and reported a well-attended event and positive feedback. We thank the Civic, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs for their contributions to the event, and the Okeys for their ongoing continued support of the event.

Janet Larson led an update on the Christmas in the Village planning for November 19-20. All activities are coming together, as well as the addition of a Decorated Christmas Home Tour of five homes, led by Teresa Benedict and Carrie Keller.

Ray Berg provided an update on the Wild Side Ride Bicycle Race planning, currently scheduled for June 18, 2011.

New Business

Ray Berg discussed the results of the October 13 Council of Chambers meeting in Ypsilanti. A major result is the planning of a social media workshop for all Washtenaw County chamber members in first quarter 2011.

The Women's Council of Washtenaw County is seeking nominations for the annual ATHENA awards.

There are currently openings on both the Manchester Community Joint Planning Commission and the Manchester Downtown Development Authority.

Ray Berg reviewed a meeting held with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation at the Leonard Preserve regarding the proposed GCI project on a Manchester Shared-Use Trail along the former NYCRR railbed.

Karl Racenis discussed the 2011 Community Calendar, and the need to get events up quickly so that outside organizations like the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau can include them in their printed promotional materials. Racenis also discussed a proposal for a joint Chicken Broil/MACC/other organizations marketing brochure for 2011.

Announcements

Bill Chizmar announced the deadline for Crazy Cash applications is November 26.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.