

Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce

General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2011

12:00 Noon, Dan's River Grill

Attendees: Ray Berg, Sue Knasiak, Peggy Allen, Barry Allen, Bess Ohlgren-Miller, Rick Taepke, Carol Britten, John Schmitt, Carlene Oliver, Bill Chizmar, Rose Cousino, Ron Rademacher, Jim Mann, Frank Tistle, Pat Fielder, Janet Larson, Julia Gregg, Beth Tomaszewski, Christine Yob, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Ken Ascher, Kathy Roberts, Elizabeth Beaudoin, Shawn Lewis-Lakin

Meeting called to order at 12:30 PM, introductions, agenda motioned for approval by Barry Allen, second by Carl Curtis, approved.

Program

Ron Rademacher, Michigan Back Roads.com, presented on the Terrific Towns Program and the website he maintains on promoting tourism to Michigan unique towns. The website provides multiple information pages for small towns "off the freeways" to achieve a greater web presence. Examples of small towns who are current subscribers were presented. The terms of the contract and the cooperative effort between the town and the web host were reviewed. The Chamber will consider the program in partnership with the DDA and possibly other community organizations.

Frank Tistle spoke on the upcoming Manchester High School After Prom Event, and the program for fundraising for this event.

Secretary's Report – Motion to approve Carl Curtis, support Peggy Allen, approved.

Treasurer's Report – Motion to approve Carl Curtis, support Barry Allen, approved.

Reports from Standing Committees

Manufacturers – none

Membership – renewals coming in, please respond as soon as you can.

DDA/Website/Facebook – none

Old Business

Ray Berg provided an update on the Ragin' Raisin Dirt Classic Bicycle Race planning scheduled for April 16. An update was provided to the Manchester Village Council on February 7 and the Freedom Township Board of Trustees on February 8.

Membership renewal packages with the 2010 Annual Report have been issued, and members are requested to respond promptly to help with 2011 budget planning.

New Business

President's Report - Ray Berg reported on recent activities concerning the movies "Lucky Christmas" and "Undaunted Courage", which have shown location interest in Manchester. The status of the Manchester Wellness Coalition assessment activities was reviewed. New members Huron Valley Financial and Consumers Energy were noted. The AATA presented community forums in Manchester on the 30-Year Master Plan, and the Chamber hosted the January 31 event. An update on a possible second bike race was presented. The Gateway Communities Initiative is launching a regional branding effort and marketing campaign. An update was provided on the Manchester Shared-Use Path. The Manchester Relay for Life team is holding an organizational meeting on February 14 at the Black Sheep Tavern.

Janet Larson discussed the upcoming Crazy Cash Night, and requested members purchase tickets and offer to volunteer at the event. The Chamber is one of the recipients of funds from this event.

The Business Expo is coming on June 2, and preliminary planning is underway. The format and marketing will be similar to last year. Volunteers are sought for the event.

The Golf Outing with CRC is scheduled for June 15. There is some discussion underway about changing both the week, and the day of the week, the event is held, to achieve more golf teams.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.