

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2009**

(includes Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting of February 9, 2009)

Present: Ray Berg, Steven Harvey, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Jody Flowers, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy Roberts, Karl Racenis, Janet Larson, Mark Palms, Julia Gregg, Dee Miles, Jim Mann, Ken Ascher, Dan Huntsbarger, Tamara Real – Washtenaw Arts Alliance

Meeting Called to Order at 12:30 with Introductions.

Motion to approve agenda – Carl Curtis, second Janet Larson. Agenda approved.

Program: Tamara Real - Washtenaw Arts Alliance, and **Mark Palms** – Riverfolk Organization, presented the general results of the recently completed Washtenaw County Cultural Master Plan. The project's background, components and Manchester-specific findings were discussed. The next steps, including a Manchester Community Forum in March or April, were presented. The presentation slides are available for viewing on the Chamber's web site.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve as presented by Carl Curtis, second by Steve Harvey. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve by Carl Curtis, second by Janet Larson. Motion approved.

Standing Committees:

Manufacturing: No report.

Membership: Approximately half of the 2008 membership has renewed as of this date. Reminders will be mailed to notify members of the March 31 deadline in our by-laws.

Web Site: Miscellaneous updates continue. The 2009 Community Events Calendar is regularly updated. Please forward updates and additional information for events (in electronic format preferably) to Karl Racenis.

DDA: No update from previous January announcements. DDA still working to ensure funding for the enhancements is not lost due to state budget problems.

Old Business:

Ray Berg provided an update on the Community Business Expo planning. The date will be Thursday, June 4, in conjunction with and adjacent to the Farmers Market along Adrian Street. Format, arrangements and services available will be similar to last year. Fees will remain the same as last year. Notice will go out by March 1 to last year's exhibitors offering them first choice on available booth locations. A Farmers Market

representative is desired for the planning committee. A musicians' spot on the Mill porch throughout the event is also planned.

Janet Larson gave an update on planning for the Golf Outing Fundraiser, scheduled for Wednesday, June 10. The first planning meeting is Tuesday, February 17, 10:00 AM at United Bank & Trust. The planning meeting agenda was distributed.

We seek volunteers to help with both activities.

New Business:

President's Report:

The Chamber's 2009 operating budget was set at approximately \$ 18,000, similar in scope and specifics to last year's. A copy of the budget, and the 2008 income statement, will be e-mailed to any Chamber member upon request. There are slight increases in the Business Expo and Oktoberfest budgets based on successes experienced at last year's events.

Ray Berg met with Newcombe Clark, publisher of the on-line *Concentrate* publication, relative to having Manchester added to this publication. Coverage of Manchester will be added to this publication. Issues Media Group, the publishing firm, also provides other services related to community promotion and advancement which will be investigated. Ray will invite Newcombe to attend a chamber meeting, and present the interesting results of research into what makes communities attract young people and grow.

A Classic Car tour stopping in Manchester is scheduled for mid-day, Wednesday May 13. Information and arrangements will be forwarded to this group, and local merchants will be advised of the times and details of their visit.

General Announcements:

No general announcements.

Motion to adjourn Sharon Curtis, second Dan Huntsbarger. Adjournment at 1:40 PM.

Minutes taken by Kathy Roberts

The Executive Board met immediately after the general membership meeting. The Board adopted two resolutions:

1. A resolution of support in favor of the Manchester Community Schools Bond Proposal, scheduled for a vote on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.
2. A motion to approve the 2009 Operating Budget for the Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce, as presented.

