

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2007**

Present: Denienne Schaible, Bill Chizmar, Jeff Wallace, Daniel Lai, Jim Mann, Kari Newman, Kathy Roberts, Christine Yob, Sue Gisting, David Brown, Jim Holland, Marsha Johnson Chartrand, Pat Fielder, Jesse O'Jack, Pat Vaillencourt, Tom Ash, Carl Curtis, Karl Racenis, Sharon Curtis, Debie Johnson, Janet Larson, Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

Program: Manchester Fair- Denienne Schaible

Denienne listed some of the challenges the fair board was experiencing this year, particularly with the loss from state funding. She gave an overview of the budget. Currently there is no extra charge for the rodeo. A percentage of the carnival revenue comes back to the fair. To offset the loss of funding the fair has raised gate prices and dipped into the c.d. it holds with the expectation of doing okay. In the past, the fair board has tried fundraisers unsuccessfully. Horseracing revenues used to go to state fairs, but that has been discontinued. The question was raised as to whether the board had considered eliminating premiums. The board has considered it but decided against elimination because most of the premium money is paid to kids who looked forward to the awards. Many adults donate back their premiums.

Welcome and Introductions

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept – Jeff Wallace, Second – Bill Chizmar

Treasurers Report: Treasurer, Kathy Roberts not present. A motion to table the reports until the next meeting – Sharon Curtis, Second – Sue Gisting

Manufacturers: No report

Membership: Current membership is at 109 with 28 premier memberships. Reminders have been sent out to previous members.

Website: Most recent changes have been added.

Activities: Christine Yob and Stephanie Buerlie will be at the Chicken Broil selling ducks. Others are still needed to assist the committee in planning for the Octoberfest. Karl Racenis will bring the Classic cars participation up at the next Men's Club meeting.

Old Business

Police Steering: Pat Vaillencourt provided an update. Cutbacks have been made in the number of deputies in Ypsilanti by 6 and the Village of Manchester

by 1. They have been working with undersheriff Herb Mahoney. A subcommittee has been formed off a subcommittee.

MACC/CRC Golf Outing: Janet Larson stated that 56 golfers had participated, and the committee received some nice comments from a survey about the outing. The addition of the poker game was well received.

New Business

Elections: Carl Curtis expressed that a nominating committee is usually appointed by the chamber president and is not an ongoing one. The president and vice president positions are open this year. Sharon Curtis mentioned that the bylaws were never approved and got bogged down. They need to become a priority. She will try to have recommendations for next month from the bylaw committee.

Merchants: Advertising opportunities were discussed. Sharon raised the issue of a craft show in Saline that takes place in November and provides good publicity for businesses. A publication for this event with a reach of 16,000 still has some advertising space available. Sharon will coordinate for anyone wishing to take advantage of this advertising opportunity. A motion was made for the chamber to approve \$150 to pick up one ad. Motion made to approve by Kari Newman, Second – Pat Fielder.

Historic Commission: Karl provided an update on the Historic study committee and the work with the Village Council. Concerns of property owners have been considered as well as the remodeling proposal. The guidelines have provided suggestions with few things being mandated. The make up of a committee will be 5 members and should include a DDA and property owner. Appeals from decisions of the committee will have the option to be voiced to the Village Council.

Announcements:

Manchester Community Fair, July 10 - 14

54th Annual Chicken Broil July 19

Southwest Council of Governments – August meeting

Motion to Adjourn:

Adjournment: 1:20

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta