

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2008**

Present: Kari Newman, Ray Berg, Karl Racenis, Janet Larson, Carol Britten, Dianne Schwab, Jeff Wallace, Denny Steele, Dawn Steele, David Brown, Susan Gisting, Ken Ascher, Christine Yob, Pat Vaillencourt, John Mauer, Jim Mann, Kathy Roberts, Daniel Lai, Amie Mongeau, Patty Keezer, Jody Flowers, Bill Chizmar, Tamara Real, Sandy Rupp, Marcia Miner, Debie Johnson, Jesse O' Jack, John Manor, Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

Welcome and Introductions

Program: "Update on Washtenaw United Way?" –Sandy Rupp and Marcia Miner, Washtenaw United Way

An overview of Washtenaw United Way was presented including its earliest days addressing the war effort to its more recent Community Impact Model. Also discussed were the 2-1-1 program, Success by 6 and Power of the Purse.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept: Pat V. Second: Sue G.

Treasurers Report: Beginning balance: \$4943.10 Ending: \$4738.00

Manufacturers: No report

Membership: Current membership is 71.

Website: A counter has been placed on the site and it has registered up to 600 hits. A volunteer form has been added and members are encouraged to see the types of help needed for upcoming activities.

DDA: No report

Old Business

M-52 Rebuild Committee/DDA Streetscape Open House: Jeff Wallace stated a public meeting that took place Feb. 20 and 80 people attended.

2008 Golf Outing Planning Committee: A meeting will be held at the Community Resource Center on March 26 at 10 a.m. The event will take place at Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea. Members are encouraged to help in a variety of ways. Those who are not attending are encouraged to sponsor an eagle, birdie or par sponsorship.

2008 Community/Business "Open House": At the Feb 18 planning meeting it was decided to use the theme "Live, Play and Grow Together." The event is planned for June 5 as a showcase of the business community. Please mark your calendars.

2008 Farmers Market Planning Committee The Farmers Market will begin the 1st Thursday in May and run through October. Needed are more vendors, fresh produce and plants. It would be desirable to expand the area for crafts and antiques. Costs for a table are \$5.00 a week or \$80 per season. Volunteer help is needed. Contact the committee members: Dawn S. David B. Linda M.

Washtenaw Council of Chambers up-coming meeting – April 22 Manchester will be hosting this meeting at Dan's River Grill. Eight chambers will be coming and Michael Finey of SPARK. MACC Executive Board and other chamber members are encouraged to come to help welcome the groups at the event.

New Business

President's Report:

- Communication from State of MI regarding MACC sign: The issue has been resolved and the sign is no longer illegal. A policy is in the works on how to handle names on the sign.
- Crazy Cash Night: Thanks to the Chamber members who volunteered – Janet Larson, David and Colleen Norris, Dawna and Mike Stockwell.
- Membership Benefits List: Ray is working on putting together the benefits of a joining the chamber for \$40/\$100.

Artists Census: Tamara Real, of the Arts Alliance, discussed the census that will be utilized to address ways to help organizations and individuals create a climate where the arts can thrive. She asked for help in getting the word out. Art and culture is a significant motivator for bringing people into communities. Access to the census can be found at www.artcount.org.

The Manchester Communicator: Chris Kanta discussed the new newsletter that Donna Clark helps to produce that describes volunteer activities in the community. The newsletter currently serves the Manchester Schools but can be sent to businesses and homes to keep parents and the community abreast of opportunities. Sign-up or call the CRC.

After Prom Party Request: A motion was made by Jeff W. for chamber funds of \$200 for the party. Second: Kari N.

Announcements:

-**"Taxpayers Guide"** John Minor announced the guide is available from Rep. Randy Richardville

-A Cyber Safety presentation will be held tomorrow at the schools

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta