

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce  
Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2007**

**Present:** Chris Fegan, Kari Newman, Christine Yob, Ray Berg, David Brown, Susan Gisting, Pat Fielder, Jesse O'Jack, Pat Vaillencourt, Jody Flowers, Carl Curtis, Karl Racenis, Sharon Curtis, Debie Johnson, Janet Larson, Ray Berg, Michele Ingalls, Jim Holland, Jeff Wallace, Daniel Lai, Dianne Schwab, Bill Schwab, Ron Milkey, Bill Chizmar, Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes were reviewed and accepted

**Treasurers Report:** Starting balance: \$7096.59. Ending balance of \$7,375.61.

**Program:** Homeland Security – U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Eduardo Enriquez, P.T., P.C. & Dr. Tony Morris

The presentation described the scope and challenges in maintaining security in and around our waterways. Over 5 million volunteer hours are contributed to help in this effort by those who act out of love for our country and boating. The role of the U.S.C.G. is to maintain border security and the flow of commerce. We are extremely vulnerable given the difficult task of inspection of container ships with their vast loads. The public is encouraged to participate in *Waterway Watch*, a program similar to a neighborhood watch. Citizens need to be alert to unusual situations of people and vessels around marinas, bridges, locks and other waterfront facilities and report incidences to 1-877-24-WATCH.

**Manufacturers:** Jeff Wallace reported Amcor will be adding more space and jobs.

**Membership:** There has been one new member since last meeting.

**Website:** Regular updates are being posted. There are some gaps in activities and nonprofits are reminded to check their events.

**Activities:** Christine Yob and Ron Milkey discussed the upcoming Oktoberfest. Adrian Street will be closed. Activities will include trunk-a-pulooza, bed races, car show, and pizza eating contest at Classic Pizza. The goal is to expand on these for next year.

**Old Business**

**Police Steering:** The Pat Vaillencourt reported on the first draft of the proposed cuts to the sheriff numbers.

Over please

**Bylaws:** A letter will be sent out before the annual meeting to allow the membership to vote by mail on the proposed bylaw revisions.

**Elections & Annual Dinner:** The annual MACC dinner will take place at Dan's River Grill on Wed, Oct. 24. Patty Keezer and Chris Kanta will be meeting this week to begin work as part of the nomination committee. The membership is encouraged to provide input to help with the nomination process.

### **New Business**

**Volunteer of the Year Nomination:** Christine Yob was nominated for the Chamber's outstanding volunteer for the 20<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Recognition Banquet sponsored by the CRC and Chelsea Community Hospital on Nov 30. She was selected for her work helping the Oktoberfest and Christmas in the Village events continue to be a part of the Manchester community.

**Workshop on Fiduciary Responsibilities:** Jim Holland urged the Chamber to take the lead to head up an approach to encourage nonprofits to follow good financial business practices for accountability and stewardship. This could be done with a task force which would review nonprofits practices to see if organizations were meeting minimal standards set down by the task force. Yearly, a review would give a thumb up or a thumb down to every nonprofit. There would be a fee based on an organization's budget size. A discussion followed. David Brown suggested tabling further discussion until the chamber bylaws were brought into compliance.

### **Announcements:**

-Barnraisers – Barnraising going on this weekend for the new playground set at Carr Park

-Oktoberfest – Sept. 15

Adjournment: 1:25

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta