

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2008**

Present: Ray Berg, Patty Keezer, Carol Britten, John Manor, Pat Vaillencourt, Jeff Wallace, Sharon Curtis, Janet Larson, Pat Fielder, Kevin Sterling, Marsha Chartrand, David Brown, Daniel Lai, Karl Racenis, Jesse O'Jack, Carl Curtis, Kathy Roberts, Dee Miles, Kari Newman, Ken Ascher, Brett Hoppenbauer, Jim Mann, Shawn Lewis-Lakin

President Ray Berg called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Manchesteropoly was added to the General Announcements, and the agenda was then approved.

Program:

Pat Vaillencourt and Jeff Wallace provided the program, as a "State of the Village, Summer 2008" message.

Pat expressed the thanks of the Village to all the volunteers who had worked on the many summer activities, making them all a success.

She reported on the progress for the M-52 project, which will likely not be started until 2010. MDOT has looked at many options for the "four corners" and, in response to SHPO's position, will probably buy the home on the northeast corner. The home will stay where it is, but the road will be widened. Small bits from the southeast and southwest corners will also be used to help to straighten the road. The home will be added into a historic district, and perhaps rented as offices.

A water meter replacement program will be initiated this winter, to install "drive-by" meters. This will save labor costs and be more accurate.

Liberty and parts of Duncan Streets will be resurfaced. Hibbard Street is nearly done, with some final items to be fixed.

A Historic District Commission appointment was noted with Allen Dyer. Kari Newman is back on Village Council, completing Jack Conaway's term.

No services have been cut from the budget, although adjustments have been necessary because of new contracts with sheriff's deputies. It is the Village's consensus that it is necessary to continue to fund deputy services at special events in Manchester throughout the year.

The Joint Planning Commission, including 3 townships and the Village, is preparing a Master Plan for 10-20 years ahead. When approved, the Plan must also be approved by each local planning commission. The Commission is hoping that Sharon Township will join soon.

Chamber Agenda Items:

The minutes of July 14 were approved with a correction under "President's Report" to read "Carl (Curtis)" rather than "Karl (Racenis)".

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Jeff Wallace reported that building projects for both Martinrea and Amcor have been completed. All manufacturing buildings, except the Manchester Stamping building, have now been purchased and are being used, some as warehouses, some for light manufacturing.

There were no additions to the membership this month.

Karl Racenis needs 2009 events dates for his inclusion on the website. Other media use the website for their publicity and many of their deadlines are early in the fall.

Karl also reported on the DDA. Plans are now being refined for street lights and the DDA would welcome input from business owners and residents.

Kevin Sterling reported (for Christine Yob) on Oktoberfest plans. The event will be September 20th, from 9 to 3 and include bike and bed races, a farmer's market, duck races, kids corner and a car show. Business sponsors and volunteer help are needed.

David Brown reported that the Farmer's Market has tried to expand with number and types of vendors. There has been limited success with going to the Ann Arbor Antiques Market. Vendors have become very selective because of travel expenses.

Carl Curtis reported that the Nominating Committee has completed its task and will present a slate of officers for the annual meeting.

In the President's Report, Ray Berg stated that he is working to get Manchester included in the on-line publication "Concentrate". Also, he continues to work on the update of the MACC Manchester brochure, which is six years old. The Thrills of Mills brochure highlighting the Ford mills is now available.

The Annual Dinner meeting will be held Wednesday, September 24th at 6:00 pm at Dan's. This will be in addition to the regular September monthly meeting on September 8th. Plans for the program are still underway, but Ray hopes for a program commemorating the 175th anniversary of the beginning of commerce in Manchester.

The Teacher Appreciation luncheon, jointly sponsored by MACC and the Manchester Optimists, is scheduled for August 28th. Shawn Lewis-Lakin suggested that a breakfast instead of lunch would fit better with their schedules.

It has been suggested that the chamber host seminars, separate from the regular meetings, for topics of interest to business owners. Ray is requesting input from the membership as to interest and potential topics. An initial suggestion is member education on the new Michigan Business Tax.

The Manchester Schools Foundation has been very successful in selling all the squares for Manchesteropoly, which will be out by November 7th. Slots are still available for names listed on the cover.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Sharon Curtis, scribe