

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

**Present:** Chris Fegan, Kari Newman, Ray Berg, Carl Curtis, Karl Racenis, Sharon Curtis, Janet Larson, Carol Britten, Barb Fuller, Dianne Schwab, Jeff Wallace, Denny Steele, Ron Milkey, Linda Milkey, David Brown, Ken Ascher, Christine Yob, Pat Vaillencourt, John Mauer, Mark Roby, Gail Quaderer, Jim Mann, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy Roberts, Daniel Lai, Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Program: “Why is Manchester Doing Joint Regional Planning?”**

Mark Roby, Washtenaw County’s Planning and Environment Department  
Mark provided background on the Regional Joint Planning and discussed goals and benefits for the Manchester community that would preserve the “Manchester Experience”. Goals include coordinated land use strategies, zoning ordinances and shared resources to promote economic vitality and opportunity. Pat V., Jeff W., Ray B. and Karl R. have worked on the SW Council of Governments planning. Members of the Joint Planning include: the Village of Manchester and Townships of Bridgewater, Freedom & Manchester. The common plan would replace individual plans and give strength to local townships with a regional plan.

**Secretary’s Report:** Correction to the January 14 Minutes. The Program regarding Wireless Wastenaw should say 900 MHz radio transmitters were added to the top of the water tower and forthcoming funding will come from private support.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer’s report reviewed. Motion to accept: Kari Newman: Second: Jeff Wallace. Beginning balance: \$7,268.55. Ending balance: \$4,943.10

**Manufacturers:** No report

**Membership:** Sharon Curtis reported there are 2 new members. She urged members to renew their current dues.

**Website:** Karl Racenis has implemented a counter, added pictures and is working on the structure of member businesses by category.

**DDA:** No report

**Old Business**

**M-52 Rebuild Committee/DDA Streetscape Program:** Jeff Wallace stated a public meeting will take place Feb. 20 from 3:30 – 7 p.m. regarding issues related

to the M-52 reconstruction project. He clarified that the funeral home, scheduled for removal, is not on any historical registry or site that would allow for preservation.

**2008 Golf Outing Planning Committee:** A meeting will be held at the Community Resource Center on Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. to begin planning for the spring outing. Janet Larson invited members to come help with the planning process for decisions on the games, venue, and prizes for the outing.

**2008 Community Calendar Update Process:** Most updates have been made.

**2008 Community/Business “Open House – Taste of the Town”:** It was decided that the event should be considered this spring with the intention of opening it up to the community. A meeting will be held Feb 18, 12 p.m., at the Coffee Mill to discuss further. Chris Fegan proposed to let a committee decide the logistics. Pat Vaillencourt – second.

**Alternative Chamber Meeting Times:** Many chamber members like the noon meeting time. Ray Berg expressed that he would like to bring others to the MACC meetings by scheduling two alternate times yearly. Dan’s River Grill is willing to provide the restaurant space and meals with any proposed changes. Ray will work on the meeting schedule and bring ideas to the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### **President’s Report:**

- Attended Washtenaw Council of Chambers meeting in Milan on Jan 15. Comparison of regional planning efforts of Ann Arbor and Manchester will take place between at the next meeting in April scheduled in Manchester.
- New members, United Way and the Red Cross, want to present to the chamber.
- A resident of Manchester called to pass on a site for residents to check on for unclaimed property
- The Chamber will assist with the Washtenaw artists’ census that will begin Feb 18 and run for six weeks.
- The Chamber Board is working on issuing support for the M-52 reconstruction project and considering the request by the Lion’s Club for inclusion of their emblem on the MACC sign to the north.
- The Department of Transportation has sent notice of a hearing scheduled April 1, regarding the MACC sign to the north described as abandoned and illegal. Jeff Wallace will follow-up with a phone call to them. Chamber attorneys may be called on for help.

**Community Run:** “Run Manchester” will be taking place Aug 2 the morning of the Riverfolk Festival. It will include a 10k, 5k and walk. It is being sponsored by the new nonprofit in town called Manchester Area Friends in Action. There is a

meeting that will take place March 5, and anybody is welcome. See Denny Steele.

**Barn Quilt Project:** Barb Fuller also known as the “Barn Quilt Lady” discussed quilts that are located on barns, garages and houses. She talked about the possibility of providing tours for people to enjoy this wonderful art-form in Manchester. Currently display barn quilts are at the homes of Ron Kuhl, Betty Gregerson and Helen Fisher.

**Farmer’s Market:** Linda Milkey’s job schedule has changed and she now needs to find others to take over some of the responsibilities of the market that she and Ron perform. Needed are people to assist with set-up and street reopening, publicity children’s activities, special events, and other areas.

**Announcements:** Chili Cook-Off – Feb. 16  
Crazy Cash Night is taking place Mar 1.  
Meeting adjourned 1:55  
Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta