

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce  
Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2009**

**Present:** Ray Berg, Bill Schwab, Bill Chizmar, Michele Ingalls, Rebecca Harvey, Steven Harvey, Kari Newman, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Chris Fegan, Jody Flowers, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy Roberts, Karl Racenis, Jesse O'Jack, Jeff Wallace, Janet Larson, Dawn Steele

Meeting Called to Order at 12:25 with Introductions.

Motion to approve agenda – Sharon Curtis, second Jeff Wallace. Agenda approved.

**Program:** Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Superintendent, Manchester Community Schools, provided a synopsis and handout of the upcoming February 24 school bond election. He reviewed the financial situation leading to the bond proposal, the current state funding climate, and the specific improvements to be accomplished with the bond election proceeds. Full details are available on the school website [www.mcs.k12.mi.us](http://www.mcs.k12.mi.us). He noted that Freedom, Bridgewater and Manchester townships have consolidated their polling place at the American Legion Hall. Sharon Township and Jackson County residents will vote at the Sharon Township hall.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve as presented by Kari Newman, second by Carl Curtis. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve by Carl Curtis, second by Jeff Wallace. Motion approved.

**Standing Committees:**

**Manufacturing:** The former Collins-Aikman property will now be occupied by a plastics recycling business. Initially looking at 25-30 jobs. The Chamber will invite the owners to visit a chamber meeting.

**Membership:** Renewal packets have been mailed out with a copy of the 2008 Annual Report.

**Web Site:** The 2009 Community Events Calendar is now up. Please forward updates and additional information for events (in electronic format preferably) to Karl Racenis.

**DDA:** The downtown Main Street enhancements design review is underway with MDOT, and is about 70% complete. This is being done in conjunction with the M-52 project, which now appears to be scheduled for 2011.

**Old Business:**

Ray Berg reviewed recent developments on a movie production crew's interest in the Manchester area. Members are encouraged to forward suggested movie locations and points of interest to Ray for forwarding onto the AAACVB, which serves as a central point of contact.

The 2008 Annual Report is issued, and was mailed to all current members. It is also available on our web site.

Feedback from Christmas in the Village for 2008 was reviewed, and was generally very positive. Comments include the need for a PA system suitable for announcing the events to a large crowd from the mill porch, along with an announcer and music to fit the event. Signs for the horse drawn wagon pick-up points were also noted as a future improvement. The Chamber is budgeting in 2009 for a dedicated PA system suitable and available for all Chamber events. "Santa's Key" has been found and stored at the Coffee Mill for future use.

### **New Business:**

#### **President's Report:**

The 2009 budget is being finalized. Any suggestions are welcome. The PA system and an Oktoberfest "Duck Catcher" are two items being included. Technical help on purchasing the PA system is welcomed.

#### **Merchants' Standing Committee**

Ray Berg initiated discussion of the status of the Merchants' Standing Committee versus a separate Merchants' group that previously existed, based on recent on-line discussions. The Chamber has previously approved a Merchants' Standing Committee, but it has been inactive. Sharon Curtis offered to represent the village merchants and to call any meetings of this standing committee as may be needed.

#### **2009 Calendar and Events**

Input for the 2009 Community Calendar update is still requested. Organizations are welcome to post to this on-line tool, as the Chamber strives to maintain this one-stop information source.

Janet Larson has agreed to chair the 2009 Golf Outing (June 10) on behalf of the Chamber, and will call the first planning meeting. Ray Berg will chair the 2009 Community Business Expo (June 4), and will call the first meeting. Volunteers are sought for both activities.

### **General Announcements:**

Dawn Steele announced changes to the "M" Manchester's Magazine for 2009. The magazine will no longer be mailed to all 48158 households, but will be available for free pickup at 12-14 locations around town, or by subscription. Advertising rates are reduced. This reflects the cost of producing the magazine and the overall economy. There will still be six issues per year. The next issue is February 1.

Motion to adjourn Kari Newman, second Carl Curtis. Adjournment at 1:40 PM.

Minutes taken by Kathy Roberts