

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2009**

Present: Kathy Roberts, David Brown, Kari Newman, Ray Berg, Karl Racenis, Janet Larson, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy Roberts, Jeff Wallace, Jessica Ping, Sharon Curtis, Daniel Lai, John Manor, Bill Chizmar, Michele Ingalls, Pat Fielder, Daniel Lai, Lori Fordham, Ken Ascher, Chris Kanta

Welcome and Introductions

Program: Washtenaw County Update and Impacts on Region 3 – Jessica Ping, County Commissioner

Jessica addressed concerns over steady declining revenue and the challenge the county is facing in regards to severe budget constraints. She called it the worse crisis since the 1930s citing significant reduction of revenue from property taxes including projections into 2014.

Secretary's Report: The report was approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance of \$6,751.90. Ending balance: \$6,478.57. The report was approved as presented.

Manufacturers: No report.

Membership: There are 85 members. The deadline is this week to be included in the Directory published by the Manchester Enterprise. For members, there are many benefits including the large savings in using the Chamber's bulk permit for mailings.

Website: Normal additions and updates to events have been posted.

DDA: Next Monday at 11 a.m., a coffee hour with Rep. Mark Schauer of Michigan's 7th Congressional District, will take place at the Coffee Mill. Anyone interested in speaking to Mark or hearing his comments should attend.

Old Business

Golf Outing Planning Update: United Bank & Trust has been hosting the planning meetings. Registration forms have gone out to those who have participated in the past. The Chamber website will have partnership and team applications for those wishes to participate.

Business Expo Planning Update: The Expo will take place June 4 from 3 – 7:30 p.m. All are encouraged to come out. A first mailing has gone out to participants from the previous year with the opportunity to obtain the same spots. The event provides good exposure for a reasonable fee. An Expo planning meeting will take place after this meeting.

New Business

President's Report:

- Manchester's suitability was discussed for the location of 2 films. One of the films is about baseball and the other the San Francisco earthquake. Our local ball fields are in the running with Blissfield's ball diamonds at this time. Warner Brothers called Ray after seeing posted website pictures of the downtown buildings and rolling Main Street.
- On July 13, the County Townie Street Party will take place. This pre-Art Fair event draws over 7500 people and is open to all chambers to promote business and events. The MACC will have a table and others are invited to participate. Those participating should bring a minimum of 500 pieces of handouts to pass out to attendees.
- On May 6, Michigan Brass and Gas will be in the community to eat and shop from noon to 3 p.m. Over 40 people will be coming.
- Janet L. will be following up on information that was put out at the Washtenaw County Chambers meeting regarding a Blue Cross/Blue Shield health program. The program will return money back to the Chamber for getting members enrolled in the program.
- At the Washtenaw Chambers meeting, other chambers talked about the good relationship with our local business – Holiday Lighting and owner Tom Kladzyk. Those using Tom's services were very pleased and encouraged others to do so.
- A Facebook presence was discussed involving a joint DDA/MACC venture to promote social connection within the community. A Manchester page could promote what the chamber and DDA does and generate more volunteer help.

Announcements:

- Canoe Race, Kiwanis – Sunday, May 17
- Blues and Ribs Feast – Saturday, May 23

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta