

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

Present: Ray Berg, Jeff Wallace, Julia Gregg, Carl Curtis, Karl Racenis, Sharon Curtis, Barry Allen, Sue Allen, Ken Ascher, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy Roberts, Fred Best, Carol Britten, Bill Chizmar, Mark Palms, Dianne Schwab, Bill Schwab, Janet Larson, Lori Fordham, Jesse O'Jack, Tammi Kanaley (Girl Scouts), Michele Ingalls, Kim Crampton, Peter Martorano (CastleRock), Russ DeVriendt (CastleRock), Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

Welcome and Introductions

Program: Location scouts Peter Martorano and Russ DeVriendt, of Castle Rock Entertainment, discussed the upcoming movie "Flipped", and the planning that is needed for the shoot on July 27. This is a PG love story movie about 2 kids that meet in a neighborhood and how it affects their future. A couple of scenes will be filmed in Manchester. The Whistle Stop Restaurant interior will be redone to reflect a 1950-60's period building, as well as aerial shots and street scenes downtown. A location shot on Sharon Hollow Road will be included. Period cars owned by locals will be utilized.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurers Report: Beginning balance: \$12,238.29. Ending balance: \$12,853.18. The report was approved.

Manufacturers: No report.

Membership: There are 98 members. Of that number, 24 are premier memberships. Contact Sharon Curtis if you want a sticker, decal or plaque.

Website: No report.

DDA: No report.

Old Business

Golf Outing: It was reported that there was an 18% increase in fundraising profit over last year's outing. The committee did a great job. Special thanks to Julia Gregg and Dave Helisek (new committee members) who made personal contact with new sponsors that helped contribute to the success of the event.

Townie County Hall July 13 Update: This pre-Art Fair event draws 6-7000 people. There is a table set up by chambers from the county to promote all the things chambers do. Ray will be there as well as Karl Racenis representing the Chicken Broil, and Mark Palms from the Riverfolk Festival.

Movie Production – *Flipped*: Covered in the program presentation

Council of Chambers Meeting Update: A topic discussed at the meeting was the regional cooperation among the Chambers of Commerce, particularly the out-county chambers of Chelsea, Dexter and Manchester. These groups are working cooperatively to promote local businesses and events for upcoming convention tours.

Octoberfest: Lori Fordham is directing planning, and looking for help in this event. Please contact her to volunteer.

New Business

President's Report:

- Update on Movie Contacts: The chamber continues to get calls of interest. There have been 5 – 6 calls in the last couple of weeks. Photos have been sent. The Michigan Film Office has Manchester pictures in the event a particular scene is needed, and several more will be added. These photos are tagged to aid in searching by scouts.
- Tecumseh *Homefront*: A promotional 2 page ad was purchased for \$1500 and features Manchester businesses and events.
- Manchester Press Coverage and Potential Business Development Fee on Residential Tax Bill: There has been a refocusing by local and county print and online media, which has removed Manchester activities from coverage and reporting. For instance:
 - Concentrate* – Promotes positive business development in the county – but not Manchester
 - MLive* – Online media news site – but no coverage for Manchester
 - Community Observer* – No longer mailed to Manchester
 - Manchester Enterprise* – Broader area coverage and recent move to Saline

Ray has raised concerns over proposed efforts to impose a \$1.75 tax on all county residents for business development funding, and how this may or may not benefit Manchester. Mark Ouimet, County Commissioner, has indicated a willingness to meet and pursue resolution to this problem.

Chamber members are encouraged to contact media and other sources to voice opposition to this trend and the potential tax without details on benefits to Manchester.

Tammy Kanaley, Adult Recruitment and Education Specialist for the Girl Scouts: Tammy gave a short presentation on the Girl Scouts. Volunteers are needed to fill current needs. Literature was provided to chamber members.

Announcements:

Carl Curtis related a recent compliment from a woman about the good job done by the Historical Society maintaining landscape architectural integrity.

Chicken Broil – Thursday, July 16

Riverfolk Festival – Friday/Saturday, July 31 – August 1

Run Manchester, August 1

Kiwanis Annual Volleyball Tournament – August 8

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta