

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008**

Present: Chris Fegan, Kari Newman, Ray Berg, Carl Curtis, Karl Racenis, Sharon Curtis, Janet Larson, Carol Britten, Patty Keezer, Barb Fuller, Michele Ingalls, Bill Chizmar, Jan Newman, Dianne Schwab, Jeff Wallis, Denny Steele, Dawn Steele, Danell Proctor, Dan Skrater, Debbie Peterson, Nancy Bihlmeir, Jesse O'Jack, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy Roberts, Daniel Lai, Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

Welcome and Introductions

Special welcome to the Chamber's newest member – Barb Fuller

Program: "Wireless Washtenaw Update -The Manchester Area Expansion"

Dan Skratek, Project Manager, 20/20 Communications

Dan spoke of positive impact Ray Berg has had on the project. It has been his insistence that the Manchester area be a part of the initial high speed internet access.

Those in the project have been looking for money to fund the expansion. Investors have backed off and those involved with the project have had to invest their own money. The good news is that the expansion is going forward. Three additional 99 MHz radio transmitters on top of the water tower have expanded the reach to 28 sq miles. In 45 days, news should be forthcoming about county support for funding for the southwest area. With full funding, more towers will be possible, but for now, they will work on usage of towers owned by private individuals.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept: Chris Fegan
Second: Janet Larson. Karl Racenis made a suggestion that the minutes include first and last names. Correspondence: A thank-you from the family of Peg Chizmar for the chamber's donation of flowers at her memorial.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer's report was reviewed. Motion to accept: Chris Fegan. Second: Kari Newman. Beginning balance: \$7,569.84. Ending balance: \$7,268.55

Manufacturers: Jeff Wallace stated that Martinrea is adding 33,000 sq. feet and has amended to add another 15,000 sq. ft. Amcor just started a \$4 million improvement project.

Membership: Sharon Curtis reported there are 40 renewal memberships for 2008. There are '08 renewal stickers for the member plaques and window decal stickers available.

Website: Karl Racenis and Janet Larson are working on volunteer sign-up forms for events.

Old Business

M-52 Rebuild Committee/DDA Streetscape Program: Jeff Wallace reported the M-52 project has been put off until 2009. Issues need to be addressed regarding the intersection at 52 and Main St. regarding a turn lane, the funeral home and the mature trees along the route. A public meeting is set for an open house Feb. 20 from 3:30 – 7 p.m. for input on this project.

New Business

President's Initial Report: Ray reported on:

- Goal to increase membership to 150 for the 2008 year. He is working on a benefits list for membership to the MACC.
- Budget was finalized at the Executive Committee meeting on Dec. 10, 2007.
- A chamber newsletter will be sent at the end of January electronically.
- Working with Karl Racenis on the website to include a directory of businesses listed by categories to make it easier for those using the site.
- Work has begun to produce a new dynamic chamber brochure to include pictures, events and other historical aspects.
- A policy has been developed with Board input regarding political presentations made at chamber meetings. Some of the things the chamber will not do in this political climate are: endorse candidates, organize debates or forums. The policy will be posted on line.
- Suggestions on ideas and programs that the Chamber can initiate will be consolidated and passed on to members at the next meeting.

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. Those wishing to volunteer for the Chamber's only fundraiser are asked to attend.

2008 Community Calendar Update Process: Discussion was held on how best to collect the needed information to update the events calendar. A face-to-face meeting has worked well in disseminating the information and avoiding duplication. Members were requested to leave their represented organization information on the chamber sign-in sheet. Organizations may be contacted by email.

2008 Community/Business "Open House – Taste of the Town": A handout was passed out reflecting various members' interests in conducting such an event, with modifications from the 2007 "Business Expo" format.

Chamber Meeting Times: A handout was distributed to view comparison times of other Washtenaw County Chambers for general membership meetings. There was a discussion about alternate meeting times for MACC meetings to encourage more members' participation.

Announcements:

Relay for Life – May 17 & 18 see Chris Fegan for info

Sew Write is moving. It will be located at the Ash Auto Building.

Crazy Cash Night – Mar 1. Tickets are \$100 for entry and dinner by Dan's River Grill. Early Bird tickets need to be purchased by Feb 14.

Lion's Club will be chartered Jan 19

Coney Island Night by the Boy Scouts – Jan 16 & Feb 20

There will be a meeting tomorrow at the School Administration Building to discuss changes to the Kindergarten program at 9:30 & 1:30.

Texas Hold 'Em to benefit Manchester Soccer Association at the Sportsman's Club – Jan 26.

Men's Club Chili Cook-Off – Feb 16

Adjournment: 1:45

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta

