

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

**Present:** Kari Newman, Ray Berg, Karl Racenis, Janet Larson, Kathy Roberts, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, , Bill Chizmar, Daniel Lai, Gary Paul, Shawn Lewis-Laken, Barb Fuller, Doug Greenley, Sue Gisting, Sybil Kolon, Christine Yob, Kevin Sterling, Mark Palms, John Manor, Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Program: Sybil Kolon, "The Raisin Valley Land Trust"**

The RVLT non-profit organization is dedicated to the preservation of natural areas and farmland in the River Raisin watershed areas. The RVLT offers individual landowners a legal, voluntary and independent way to control land development. The donation of property or conservation easements to the RVLT preserves land for future generations while being privately held. Currently there are 600 acres in the conservation easement involving 14 different properties. A yearly baseline monitoring walk- thru is done on a preserved property. The Raisin Valley Land Trust and the Washtenaw Land Conservancy are separate entities and both collaborate on preservation efforts. Membership to the Trust is \$25 or \$50 for a corporate membership.

**Secretary's Report:** A correction to the May Minutes under **Treasurer's Report** should be Karl R. not Carl R. The June and May Minutes were reviewed and accepted into record.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning balance: \$9225.62 Ending balance: \$11,613.57

**Manufacturers:** No report

**Membership:** Current membership is at 101. The membership names have been submitted to the CRG Directory for publication.

**Website:** Karl R. reported on the recent difficulties experienced with the website. The new system will allow for greater administrative capabilities.

**DDA:** MDOT has been back in town revisiting design alternatives for the M-52 Enhancement project. The state is considering the option of buying the funeral home/property. No official determination has been made. Delay will probably push the project to the year 2010.

**Old Business**

**Financial Reports on the Business Expo and Golf:** The Expo brought in \$610 for booth rentals and a total of \$379 was paid out for advertising leaving \$231, which will be carried over for next year's event. There were 47 booths participating at the Expo. Ray has been approached by another 15 – 20 that want to be involved next year who were not at this year's event.

The Combined MACC and CRC Golf Outing fundraiser brought in \$5094 and was 10% over last year's proceeds. Both groups will receive \$2547.

**2008 Golf Outing Feedback:** Comments included: The weather was very nice for the event. The ribs prepared by Donna Stockwell were excellent. The course was very good. The committee efforts produced a successful outing.

**2008 Farmers Market – Results to Date:** Ray B. reported the attendance has been good and financially the market is doing well. The combination of the Farmers Market and Business Expo worked well together.

### **New Business**

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

- Ray addressed the Village Council regarding the contract with the Chamber. The contract was renewed at \$500 to help cover beautification and lighting projects.
- Ray and Sharon C. worked closely to make sure all chamber members were included in the CRG Directory.
- Work is being done to increase visibility of Manchester activities in the *Ann Arbor Observer* and the *Community Observer*.
- Cindy Dresche has received the Chamber financial information.
- Ray has appointed Carl C. to chair the Nominating Committee for the upcoming elections at the September Annual Meeting. Those interested in being a part of the process should contact Karl as well as those wishing to run.
- October Fest is 2 months away. Christine Yob will chair for the Sept. 20 event. Five subcommittees will need help. The Village Newsletter incorrectly listed the date as Sept 13 not Sept 20. Those interested in participating in the Bed race should contact Ron Milkey (428-9826). Rule changes for the race have been added.

**Announcements:** Barb Fuller requested an authorization of support (granted) from the Chamber for the Barn Quilts project involving the four townships. A grant has been applied for from the MI Council of Arts to help produce quilts that will not only add beauty to the area but also generate commerce and promote intergenerational cooperation.

**Manchester Opoly:** Kari N. talked about a monopoly-like game that the Manchester Community Schools Foundation will use as a fundraiser and also provide a marketing tool for businesses. The game will be available by Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and be ready for gift-giving for Christmas and next year's graduation. The cost will be \$25.00.

**CRC Estate Sale Fundraiser** The estate sale will be held July 18 & 19 at 11233 Bemis Rd. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special vision enhancement computer equipment available.

**Riverfolk Festival - Aug 2** There will be quite a crew from far and wide. Vienna Teng will headline and also puppetry for the kids. Healthy Kids will have a special booth to encourage a healthy lifestyle and will pass out pedometers to encourage walking. Admission is \$10 for the festival, and \$10 for Friday's Party in the Park (additional \$10 for the barbeque dinner).

Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta