

**Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce**  
Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2007  
Dan's River Grill

**Present:** Karl Racenis, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Carol Britten, Pat Vaillencourt, Christine Yob, Chris Fegan, Bob Desoff, Jessy O'Jack, Janet Larson, Nancy Bihlmeyer, Matt Donnellon, Patty Keezer, Don Limpert, Ken Ascher, Tom Ash, Jim Mann, David Brown, Debie Johnson, Chris Kanta

Meeting called to order: 12:10 p.m.

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Secretary's report:** Motion to accept – Sharon Curtis  
Second – Tom Ash

**Treasurer report:** Ending balance \$4671.98 Motion to accept – Pat Vaillencourt  
Second – Tom Ash

**Program: Fiduciary Responsibilities for Nonprofit Organizations - Jim Holland**

*Theme: Those who presume to serve the public good assume a public trust.*

Jim has been on both sides of the issues aisle: at the corporate level and by serving on nonprofits boards. In preparation for this presentation, Jim reviewed 6 local nonprofits and found information to be lacking at their websites. His PowerPoint presentation gave an overview of good nonprofit fiduciary management and requirements and also the results of poor oversight. Jim recommended the forming of a task force by the chamber to be composed of a lawyer, an accountant and a spokesperson to request charitable organizations submit voluntarily to the following procedures:

- Review of fiscal information and internal control procedures
- Evaluate ethical and conflict of interest practices
- Assess the organization's transparency

A cost would be involved for nonprofits with fees for a yearly review.

Questions were taken at the close of the presentation. Sharon Curtis inquired about the cost to a nonprofit. The response was that it would be in the \$500 range based on a fee commensurate with receipts. Jim would be available at a reduced fee for consultation.

Chris Kanta mentioned the leadership role Michigan Nonprofit Association has taken to improved nonprofit standards, accountability, and effectiveness for the past three years. Two tools are available to aid nonprofits from MNA: *Basic Infrastructure Checklist, and Principles and Practices for Mission Achievement: An Organizational Assessment and Planning Tool.*

## **Standing Committees**

**Manufacture:** No report

**Membership:** Current membership is in the 105 – 110 range. Pat Fielder was introduced as a new member but is known to many. Pat has been in manufacturing 25 years and retired for 5 years. Debie Johnson of Concept Insurance of Ann Arbor, also a new member, spoke of moving here 15 years ago and joined the chamber to make new connections.

**Website:** Karl Racenis will put a pdf copy of Jim Holland's presentation on the website. Currently, Karl rotates events to what is current.

**Merchants:** Sharon Curtis mentioned that the Merchants group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 8:45 a.m. at Sew Write and everyone is invited to attend. Farmer's Market is now open on Thursdays from 4 – 7 p.m. Of the many activities, only 10% of the businesses organize or help fund. There is no money to advertise which makes it difficult. Something needs to change.

DDA: Karl Racenis discussed that MDOT has been in the question and answer mode for the Enhancement grant. A website has been launched for the DDA at [www.dda-manchester.org](http://www.dda-manchester.org)

## **Old Business**

**Police Steering:** Pat Vaillencourt discussed police services for 2008. The county will pay for 12 road patrol deputies. It is important that the western part of the county receive its fair share of those deputies. The Village provides funds for 4 deputies. Many township residents assume they have covered services for protection, but township supervisors don't want to pay for these services. Gas allowance is affecting 9-1-1 calls for help.

**Wireless Washtenaw:** No report

**Golf Outing:** Janet Larson and Chris Kanta gave an update on the committee's progress for the combined outing of MACC and CRC. Chamber members are encouraged to support the outing by signing up to play, sponsor a hole, attend the networking dinner, or volunteer.

## **New Business**

**Flowers on Main Street:** Chris Fegan will order flowers and United Bank & Trust will help in preparation of the Memorial Day Parade.

**Location of the Chamber Office:** The chamber office needs to move due to the closing of Village Gifts. Discussion focused on keeping the office on Main Street and using the signage at Comerica Bank. Kathy Roberts will be handling the chamber's phone calls.

**Announcements**

Chris Fegan thanked everyone for their support at being newly elected as a school board trustee.

Dawna Stockwell is open for business on Adrian Street with her *Dinner Tonight*.

**Dates to Remember**

- May 19 - Ribs & Blue Fest
- May 20 - Canoe Race
- June 14 - MACC/CRC Golf Outing
- June 14 - Gazebo Concerts - Gemini
- June 23 - Barn Raisers Softball Tournament

Motion to adjourn: Sharon Curtis

Second: Pat Vaillencourt

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1:50

Respectfully submitted by Chris Kanta