

Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce

General Membership Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2011

12:00 Noon, Dan's River Grill

Attendees: Ray Berg, Carol Britten, Cathy Dodak, Peggy Allen, Barry Allen, Ron Mann, Bill Chizmar, Michele Ingalls, Elizabeth Beaudoin, Sharon Curtis, Carl Curtis, Chris Kanta, Julie Manders, Jim Mann, Jesse O'Jack, Janet Larson, Ken Ascher, Karl Racenis, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Kathy LaHaie, Jana Miller, Bruce Bates

Meeting called to order at 12:30 PM, introductions, agenda motioned for approval by Barry Allen, second by Jim Mann, approved.

Program

Deputy Ray Yee, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, provided an update on recent initiatives within the Sheriff's Department concerning public safety, recent break-ins in Manchester businesses, and new programs for alerting the public via e-mail and other electronic means of developing public safety situations. Several handouts were provided for identifying suspicious persons, vehicles and situations, particularly for our businesses. Guidelines were also provided for improving safety and security in homes and commercial buildings.

Secretary's Report – Motion to approve Carl Curtis, support Barry Allen, approved.

Treasurer's Report – none

Reports from Standing Committees

Manufacturers – none

Membership – membership renewal packages being prepared by Sharon Curtis

DDA – brief update on M-52 project and likely schedule for activities presented by Karl Racenis.

Website/Facebook – draft 2011 Community Calendar completed and on-line, number of Facebook fans continues to grow, new events are posted. Members may add posts of events directly.

Old Business

Christmas in the Village feedback was discussed, and some suggestions for minor improvements were recorded. Initial year of the Decorated Home Tour was very successful, and over \$ 1,000 was donated towards future Christmas decorations after the streetscape improvement is completed. All events were generally well attended and went smoothly. Thanks were expressed to the organizing committee for another successful event.

Karl Racenis discussed the updated 2011 Community Events calendar, and requested members to review information and provide any corrections or additions to the posted calendar.

Low Kidder of Wild Side Events and Ray Berg provided an update on the Ragin' Raisin Dirt Classic Bike Race, renamed from Wild Side Ride and rescheduled to Saturday April 16, 2011. The route, timing and sequence of events were reviewed. Volunteer teams are needed from the various community service groups, and the event will bring approximately 400-500 racers and perhaps 200 family members to Manchester.

Ray Berg provided an update on the Manchester Gateway Communities Initiative, reviewing the November/December presentations on the Shared-Use Path to the Village Council and Planning Commission, as well as the public hearing.

New Business

President's Report - Ray Berg provided updates on current film location requests, including a "Christmas theme" movie for which several locations shots in Manchester were sent to the Ann Arbor Film Office. The MACC 2010 Annual Report is completed, and will be available in membership renewal packages and on the MACC web site. A report on the Christmas lighting expense and future plans was provided including input from Holiday Lighting. The recent efforts of the Manchester Wellness Coalition were discussed. The February membership meeting will include a presentation by Ron Rademacher of *Michigan Back Roads* on the Terrific Towns Program. The Ann Arbor Transit Authority will hold two public forums in Manchester on the Transit Master Plan, on January 31 and February 10. The Kiwanis were thanked for their contribution to the seasonal lighting.

The Secretary position for the Chamber is open following Lori Fordham's transfer within Citizens Banking. A request was made for a member willing to serve in this position through September 2011.

A potential second bicycle race in the Manchester area organized by Anthem Sports of Cambridge, New York was presented. The Chamber has provided some information and possible dates to the organizer for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.