

## **Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce**

### **Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2010 General Membership Meeting**

Present: Ray Berg, Rev. Peter Harris, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Hollie Bayer, Jody Flowers, Peggy Allen, Barry Allen, Ron Mann, Siobhan Gorman, Bill Chizmar, Karl Racenis, Janet Larson, Kathy Roberts, Michele Ingalls, Christine Yob, Beth Tomaszewski, Jesse O'Jack, Ken Ascher, Jeff Wallace, Shawn Lewis-Lakin, Elizabeth Parkinson (AA SPARK), Jennifer Owens (AA SPARK), Chris Kanta, Mark Ouimet, Jana Miller

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM. The agenda for the meeting was approved – B. Allen motion, J. Larson second.

#### **Program:**

Elizabeth Parkinson and Jennifer Owens of Ann Arbor SPARK provided an overview of their mission statement, principles and services available for attracting, retaining and developing new businesses in the greater Ann Arbor region. Recent Manchester activity involving SPARK was highlighted. SPARK provides business accelerator services, micro-loan funds, regional incubators, talent services and other consultation. Handouts were left for Chamber members, as well as SPARK expressing their availability to help with overall business development.

#### **Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports**

April meeting minutes were approved, with R. Mann motioning and B. Allen seconding.

May Treasurer's report was approved, with S. Lewis-Lakin motioning and B. Allen seconding.

#### **Reports from Standing Committees**

- Manufacturers – All industrial buildings now have a tenant business in place.
- Membership – Membership renewals continue to arrive. We are requesting non-renewals to date to please take a few minutes and complete this important task (to us!) – it helps with our budget planning for the year. Ray Berg will report next time on new members joining Chamber this year.
- DDA – Brief update on M-52/Streetscape negotiations underway with elected officials and M-DOT.
- Website – Karl Racenis reported on interesting Chamber website statistics – number of hits, distribution, etc. See attachment.

#### **Old Business**

A. Business Expo Planning, June 3 – Ray Berg reported on registrations to date, entertainment and kids activities, and general organization. Expo appears to be headed for similar registration and activity levels as 2009. Committee will meet for final details planning later in May.

B. Golf Outing Planning, June 16 – Janet Larson reported on teams registered to date, hole partnerships renewed, continued event planning. Some previous golfers/partners not returning this year due to various circumstances, but we have added some new ones in their place. Silent auction will be held this year. Flyers are available for distribution. Committee members will be contacting individual Chamber members.

C. Farmers Market – Market is underway with Irene Stedman as new Manager.

D. Gateway Communities Initiative Planning, Sept. 15-18 – MACC is teaming with Chelsea chamber and others to reach out to campers and other vacationers (e.g. MIS) to draw into local communities. Objective is to have program running for 2011. September workshop is planned for training and to fully develop the regional concept with adjoining chambers. MIS event to introduce concept to racing community scheduled for June 11.

E. Ann Arbor Art Fair Townie County Hall – This July 19 event kicks off the Art Fair, and Manchester will have a booth. Suggested Run Manchester and Riverfolk as key promotion events due to Art Fair schedule (after Chicken Broil). Berg looking for a couple Chamber volunteers to assist with booth on July 19.

### **New Business**

A. President's Report: Ray Berg reported on the following topics:

1. The AAACVB had its semi-annual out-county meeting on April 28. Focus on upcoming summer conventions, movie production leads, website and promotion updates. Manchester Chamber will continue to work with CVB to develop movie leads and join in regional chambers' promotion efforts.
2. Photographs and location information provided to film scout for upcoming Wes Craven movie "Z".
3. Chamber contacted about interest in traveling circus as fundraiser – discussed with members. Individual service organizations can follow up if interested.
4. The downtown flower planting program (plans and status) was discussed.
5. The Chamber will update the PureMichigan™ website page for Manchester.
6. The *Jackson Citizen-Patriot* is resuming local coverage of Manchester events – Stacy Swann will be the new freelancer covering Manchester.
7. The Pedal Across Lower Michigan bicycle event will come through Manchester on June 24. We discussed ways of promoting our village and how our businesses may benefit. More planning to come.

B. The Manchester Wellness Planning Coalition has been formed by various non-profit groups in Manchester to develop long-range cohesive plans for improving Manchester's health and wellness, and to coordinate grant requests to the Chelsea-Area Wellness Foundation.

### **Announcements**

Borek-Jennings announced a giveaway offer to Chamber members.

Meeting adjourned 1:45 PM.