

Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce

General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2013

12:00 noon, Dan's River Grill

Attendees: Carol Britten, Cindy Kenney, Daniell Smith, Carl Curtis, Sue Knasiak, Peggy Allen, Laura Seyfried, Steve Hahne, Ray Berg, Karl Racenis, Cherie Vannatter, Rose Cousino, Jim Hopkins, Micjelle Hehr, Ken Ascher, Anna Zinkel, Jim Mann, Rick Taepke, Janet Larson.

Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm, introductions.

Agenda: Added to #9 General Announcements by Janet- Community Walk and Michigan Economic Development. Motion by Carl Curtis to approve as amended, support by Sue Knasiak. Approved.

Program:

Anna Zinkel from the office of Gretchen Driskell highlighted some issues that are getting their attention- 1) wage gap bills, 2) campaign finance and 3) increase in healthy kids dental programs. Gretchen is on the Commerce Committee and the Transportation Committee. Her next Coffee Hour will be Friday, May 24th, 9:00-11:30am at the Saline Senior Center.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the April Report by Carl Curtis, support by Sue Knasiak. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve the April and May Reports by Carl Curtis, support by Sue Knasiak. Approved.

Reports from Standing Committees:

Manchester Village: Janet: At the last Council meeting- The Shared Use Plan was approved. The Village is now the owner of the Farmers Market. The River Walkability plan was discussed.

Membership: Ray: 53 renewals so far. Get yours in as soon as possible.

DDA: Karl: There will be a ribbon cutting for the finishing of the construction project on June 6th at the Business Expo. The time will be 4:30.

Website: Janet: The Chamber Board approved the new site at the last Board meeting. Sue Maher is working on changing servers.

Social Media: Janet: At the last Chamber Board meeting the Board approved our Social Media Policy. A copy will be available on the Chamber website. Brooklyn CofC wants information on our policy to use in theirs.

Old Business:

Shared Use Trail: Ray: The Village Council approved the construction and engineering of the trail, but with no bridge. \$252,000 has been funded so far with a balance of \$30,000 to be raised by 2014.

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Construction will start in 2014. If the Trolz property is purchased, another 20 miles of trails can be added.

Business Expo June 6th: Ray: 23 registrants, so far. 40 is the usual number. There will also be kids activities, musicians and the ribbon-cutting.

Golf Outing, June 15th: Janet: 13 teams have committed so far. Sponsorships are coming in. There are still positions open for helping out. Ray: ITC has contributed \$1,000 towards the event.

Canoe Race, May 19th: Cindy Kenney: A time-keeper is needed at the starting line, a spotter is needed at the finish line and help is needed launching and retrieving canoes. Raffle tickets are available for the kayak. The Chamber is providing funds to pay for the gasoline for the senior's bus that will transport the participants.

Pedal Across Lower Michigan (PALM), June 26th: Ray will be working to determine about how many of the bikers will actually be coming into town to then determine if it is worth the effort for businesses to make special accommodations for them.

New Business:

Farmers Market: Ruth VanBogelen: A new Farmers Market Manager has been appointed. The first event this year was last week. It was very successful with 16 vendors and about \$1,800 gross revenue. They plan to track activity by the number of vendors and gross sales of each.

Proposal for new location of the Chamber General Membership Meetings: Janet: At the last Board meeting we discussed changing the location of our General Membership meetings. The proposal is to move the location to the Village Room at the Village Offices and have the catering provided by Chamber members on a rotation basis. After a brief discussion at this General Membership meeting, it was motioned by Daniell Smith and seconded by Laura Seyfried and approved that this proposal be adopted.

Big 400 fall color tour coordinating with Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce: Janet: A fall color tour may be planned and a Corvette Club tour.

The Manchester Street Festival, August 3rd: There

General Announcements:

1) Janet talked about the Manchester Community Walk coming up and the Michigan Economic Development activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 pm.