

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

Present: Kari Newman, Ray Berg, Karl Racenis, Janet Larson, Dianne Schwab, Jeff Wallace, David Brown, Susan Gisting, Pat Vaillencourt, Jim Mann, Kathy Roberts, Patty Keezer, Rep. Randy Richardville, Carl Curtis, Sharon Curtis, Chris Fegan, Michele Ingalls, Barb Fuller, Dee Mile, Debie Johnson, Shawn Lewis-Laken, Jesse O' Jack, John Menos, Chris Kanta

Called to Order: 12:15

Welcome and Introductions

Program: Services Available from SCORE – Robert Crouner, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), chapter 655, Washtenaw Co.

SCORE is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who provide counseling based on their business experience to help small businesses to get started. Chapter 655 covers Washtenaw, Livingston, and Lenawee Counties. The Ann Arbor SCORE has 20 counselors that can help in a variety of areas such as:

- Legal – intellectual property including patents, copyrights
- Computer management
- Nonprofits management
- Manufacturing
- Market research (for start-ups or expansions)

Secretary's Report: Correction: Shawn Lewis-Laken present at last month's meeting. Motion to accept: Pat V. Second: Sue G.

Treasurers Report: Beginning balance: \$4,738.00 Ending: \$5,928.90 Motion to accept the report: Pat V. Second: Sharon C.

Manufacturers: Jeff W. reported that Amcor moved into their new addition. Martinrea plans are moving along.

Membership: Current membership is 85. An email will be sent to those who have not paid.

Website: The latest membership list has been added with email links.

DDA: No report

Old Business

Golf Outing Planning Committee: Sponsorship and teams are needed for this event on June 11. Amcor is a major sponsor of the event.

2008 Community Business Expo Planning Committee: The name of this event has been changed from the Community Open House to Community Business Expo. Volunteers are needed to help support the Expo and help the day of.

2008 Farmers Market Planning Committee: David Brown said a full color ad in the *M Magazine* will advertise the Market that begins May 8 through October from 3 -7 p.m. Additional vendors are needed. It would be desirable to have crafts, antiques or other diverse areas from vendors. Volunteers are needed to help staff a table at the event. Members may add their flyers.

Washtenaw Council of Chambers up-coming meeting – April 22

Manchester will be hosting this meeting at Dan's River Grill. Eight chambers will be coming and Michael Finey of SPARK. Dinner cost is \$25.00 and chamber members are encouraged to participate.

New Business

President's Report:

- Chamber Bucks – Discussion on this gift certificate program. More members are needed to make this viable. Kari N. will talk to Chelsea Chamber and provide feedback to Ray.
- Chamber Tri-fold Brochure Update – Project to get started – feed back welcome. Ray will update budget to reflect printing costs and talk with Karl R and work with the DDA.

Spring Flower Planting plans: Pat V. spoke of the success of the Kiwanis Crazy Cash Night. Janet L. requested funds for chamber projects. Proceeds will help with holiday decorations and spring flowers.

Announcements:

- Canoe Race will be held May 18 A singles class has been added.
- Community Business Expo Meeting to follow this meeting
- Run Manchester Run Will take place the same day as the Riverfolk Festival, but will be held in the morning before the start of the festival
- Relay for Life: This even takes place May 17 & 18 and the team from Manchester is participating in memory of Peg Chizmar. Sponsors are needed.
- River Raisin Clean-up will take place April 16 & May 3. For further info contact the Coffee Mill

Respectfully submitted: Chris Kanta