

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce  
Tuesday, December 9, 2024, 8:41 am  
161 Building, Columbus, WI  
Google meet: [meet.google.com/qhb-mnaf-pvt](https://meet.google.com/qhb-mnaf-pvt)  
Join by phone (US) +1 727-873-0110 PIN:808006072

The monthly meeting called to order at 8:41 am by Katie Nichols. Members present: David Bennett, Suzanne Walcott, Tommy Kempfer, guest Kara Premo-Rake, by Zoom, Katie Nichols and JD Milburn.

The following items were added to the agenda: City Events Calendar, Web update and Tourism Committee Room Tax update. Motion by Suzanne Walcott, seconded by Katie Nichols to approve the agenda, carried unanimously.

Minutes from October 8 and November 12 meetings were presented. Motion by JD Milburn, seconded by Katie Nichols to approve both sets of minutes. Approved.

#### No Treasurer's Report

JD Milburn reported on email and Social Media activities. Mail Chip has been discontinued, not needed with the revision of the Website. Bob is doing a great job with the rework of the Chamber website. Dodge County Tourism contacted JD and needs photos and information for the Columbus page. The Columbus Chamber has a representative at Senator Baldwin's and Representative Grothman's offices. Columbia County is doing a hybrid guide with hardcopy and a link to businesses on their website with hyperlinks.

Membership renewals are coming up, with the reworked website, we should be able to do our renewals online. Hope to do rolling memberships in the future, rather than all being due at the same time.

#### No update on Red Bud Day 2025

Wine Walk was received well. We received several good comments by participants and businesses. About 40 surveys were returned. Will consider an earlier date next year. There were fewer participants this year with \$100 less collected. Final financials not available for this meeting.

Holiday Hop: Three Business members and 4 non-members are participating, signs and posters gone out and email advertising gone out. JD is making a map.

Annual Meeting is scheduled January 27, 2025, at The Old Rock, cocktails 5 pm and dinner at 6 pm. Invitations will be mailed to membership by the end of the year. Suzanne Walcott will work with Patti Walker to make and get out. Theme "Connections"

with program by Matt Amundson (City Administrator) and Mike Kronmann (Community & Economic Development) from the city, working together for community. There will be a question-and-answer time.

Website update: Mail Chimp closed, transition to Web Wisconsin platform when the new site is fully functioning.

City Events Calendar will be moved from the city website to the Chamber website. Need to reactivate old Chamber Calendar, JD Milburn will work with David Bennet and Bob for administration details.

### New Business

2025 Board Members: Board members' service years and open seats were reviewed. A nomination committee is working on nominations.

Web Wisconsin has offered a Lifetime Opportunity for the Chamber giving a 60% discount of normal costs, offering Lifetime web hosting for \$5996.00 one-time payment. There was discussion with a need for additional information and would funding be available, before any further consideration can be made.

Tourism has updated their event funding application. All applications must be made by the March 31 deadline. Each event has to have a separate application unless it is one event that lasts several days. There will be no need for in-person meetings. In May & June all applications will be reviewed, and all grants will be awarded in January of next year. This should streamline the process and give Tourism better information. Grant recipients will need to provide a detailed report by the end of the year. They hope to have an on-line application available in February.

Motion by Tommy Kempher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Nichols to adjourn. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Walcott