

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce  
Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 8:35 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 @ 8:35 am by President Katie Nichols. Members present: David Bennet, Barbara Oelke, Katie Nichols, Suzanne Walcott, Patti Walker, by Zoom, JD Milburn and Kara Rake.

Bob Turner, from Web Wisconsin, reviewed the present services they provide and presented possible updates and redesign in order to be more efficient, consolidate services which we pay additional for from other providers, and have all our web needs in one place. Proposed changes and additions include:

- Redesign of site including transfer from current Amazon web platform to Google platform (one time fee of \$995), switch to directory listing of members and keep current blog capabilities for announcements, events, etc social media service of creating daily (or twice weekly, whatever we choose)
- Featured Member, to be sure members are getting visibility through all social media platforms (\$49/month for daily service)
- Connect Solutions which would have a social media planner, better calendar, and a payment and management system, and would give us the ability to update the website by approved members (\$49/month)

The Chamber Board will further discuss.

Randy Koehn, representing the Columbus Area Historical Society, gave a presentation on the capital campaign for the Old Bellack Building. In cooperation with the Columbus Popcorn Wagon, making the Popcorn Wagon a permanent fixture in the museum. The CDDC has committed \$175,000 to assist in the acquisition of the building.

No additional citizen's comments.

Motion by Patti Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Nichol to approve the agenda changes of Bob Turner and Randy Koehn moved to beginning of the meeting. Carried

Motion by Barbara Oelke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Nichols to approve the Treasurer's Report. Carried

Motion by Patti Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Nichol to approve the Jul 9, 2024, minutes. Carried

Secretary reported that Columbia County Tourism and Dodge County Tourism had sent emails to the Chamber. It would be nice to have a representative from Columbus attend these meetings. Entire area is seeing a decrease in volunteerism.

President reports she has handled the phone and website contacts. A New Mexican Grill is opening on East James Street and a Boba Tea & Juice Bar is wanting to locate in Columbus. There has been a lot of traffic on the website about train service. Julie's Java website has information about the schedules, but the Chamber needs to incorporate that information into their website. There was a call from Outdoor Wisconsin on marketing opportunities, David Bennet will bring this to Columbus Tourism Commission. Kayak rental will soon be available in Columbus.

#### Old Business

No new membership renewals need to prepare for next year.

Red Bud Days – Jungs has been contacted about having a bare root Red Bud Tree Sale during the celebration in addition to the annual contest and giveaways.

Working on information for sharing and storing of email and social media logins.

Wine Walk will be on November 30, 2024. Working on sponsorship letter, looking to add more locations in addition to opening it to more participants. Requests were received to extend hours to allow participants to do more shopping. Going to open up to some non-profits organizations to participate. Charge will be \$30.00 for Businesses and \$40.00 for attendees.

#### New Business

Looking at doing a Cookie Walk for children, where they can visit businesses with parents and ride a Trolley. Perhaps have Santa available also. Looking at December 14, 2024.

Trick or Treat will be October 29, 2024, need someone to coordinate for the chamber in cooperation with the Recreation Department and the Fire Department.

Fall Rummage Sale will be promoted in the newspaper and online. Kara Rake is handling newspaper portion. Katie will handle online portion.

Vibrant Spaces Program with 50K in matching funds was mentioned. The City of Columbus' Economic Development Director is coordinating.

Annual Meeting- Tabled until next meeting but might want to organize a committee and put out to membership.

Motion by Suzanne Walcott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Katie Nichols to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Walcott, Acting Secretary