

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 8:30 am
161 Building, Columbus, WI
Google meet: meet.google.com/qhb-mnaf-pvt
Join by phone (US) +1 727-873-0110 PIN:808006072

Beth Munson addressed the Chamber about the upcoming non-recurring operational referendum to exceed the revenue limit for four years. The given reasons for the need for this referendum included operational expenses have outpaced revenues, utilities cost increase, special education needs, along with transportation increases.

Jacob Floam from Rep. Glenn Grothman's office updated on what Grothman's office is working on in Washington, the Federal Budget, Education Access, student loans and broad band regulations.

The monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Katie Nichols. Members present: David Bennett, Suzanne Walcott, Katie Nichols, Barbara Oelke, Patti Walker, Nick Sharrow, Kara Rake from Madison Media, Beth Munson for the Columbus School District and Jacob Floam from Rep. Glenn Grothman's office.

Motion by Nick Sharrow, seconded by David Bennett to approve the agenda. Carried

Minutes from February 11, 2025, were reviewed, motion by Patti Walker, seconded by Katie Sharrow to approve. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: All bills are paid. Memberships are coming in online and by Stripe. Some memberships have been paid automatically and then online, so some refunds have been made. Check account balance is \$6,021.85 and Savings balance is \$1,834.54

The chamber received a copy of "Our Wisconsin Magazine" with information about advertising in the quarterly publication. Columbus 4th of July committee requested an ad in their publication. Motion by Patti Walker, seconded by Nick Sharrow to spend \$170 on a quarter-page ad. Carried.

Digital Report: There were several requests for Amtrak and also small business information.

Old Business:

Redbud Days will be May 10, 2025, with the Prince and Princess Contest, a drawing for Redbud Trees and a Pre-Sale of Bare Root Redbud Trees with an Arborist (on-site May 10) to explain care and maintenance of the Redbud Trees. Perhaps we could sell other types of bare root trees because of Wisconsin strain disease affecting Red Bud trees. Odd Fellows will have their Food Truck Rally in Fireman's Park along with a craft fair.

Patti Walker will contact Randy Koehn with the Historical Society to see if they will do their Pie & Ice Cream on the boulevard.

All information from the old website is supposed to be transferred to the new website. We all need to review both sites this week to make sure all is correct, and the old site will be redirected to the new site and the old closed.

CHLPC requests partnership with Summer Band Series in the Park. Dates are June 19, July 17, and Aug 14, 2025. They want Chamber to hold liquor liability and obtain the Picnic License. One license will cover all three events. Have received two insurance quotes. Nick Sharrow will review each and make a recommendation as soon as possible. Motion by Katie Nichols, seconded by Nick Sharrow to take care of the insurance for this event. Motion Carried.

Wine Walk 2025 will be moved to October 18, 2025. Katie Nichols and Cheryl Besaw will coordinate this event.

Need to revisit Handbook for the Chamber. Suzanne Walcott will get onto Google Drive so all will have access. Need to finish, approve and utilize.

We should encourage all members to submit photos of their business, employees, products, etc. so we have resources to continue our website featuring our membership. Need place to update to website.

Motion by Katie Nichols to adjourn, seconded by David Bennett. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Walcott, Secretary