

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, May 13, 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

The monthly meeting was called to order at 8:31 am by Katie Nichols. Members present: David Bennett, Suzanne Walcott, Katie Nichols, Barbara Oelke, Patti Walker, Nick Sharrow, and Cheryl Besaw. Guests Ashley Pikaler and Sarah Nicoll from Columbia County Dept. of Health & Human Services.

Motion by Nick Sharrow, seconded by Barbara Oelke to approve the agenda. Carried

Minutes from April 8 & 16, 2025, were reviewed, motion by Katie Nichols, seconded by Barbara Oelke to approve. Motion carried.

Citizen & Guest Comments: Ashley and Sarah work with children needing foster care. They are seeking connections, support, fundraising opportunities and individuals to provide foster care for Columbia County. Presently many children in county foster care are having to be served out of the county. The chamber will make the needs known via our Facebook pages and several businesses volunteered to do events to assist with their needs.

Treasurer's Report: All bills are paid. Memberships are coming in online and by Stripe. Mail Chimp is still billing the chamber. J.D. and Bob from Web Wisconsin will work on this. Check account balance is \$5611.01, and Savings balance is \$1,841.44.

Received a request from Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission (CHLPC) for support of their Sumer Concert Series (June 18 is first one) and renovation of the Rest Haven was received. The chamber is taking care of the insurance and licensing for these events and no further chamber financial support was supported.

Digital Report: Facebook is being regularly updated with new member posting. Phone calls about Redbud Days were answered.

Old Business:

Red Bud Days was May 10, 2025, with the Prince and Princess Contest. There were 5 girls who participated with a Princess and runner-up named, and the other girls were named to her court. They will participate in July 4th parade and Christmas parade. The Redbud Trees Giveaway will be announced this week. Patti Walker will notify the winners, and the trees may be picked up at the City Garage during normal operation times.

Website: The new site has been evaluated, and the old site should be redirected to the new site.

Social media: Facebook is updated regularly. We have a LinkedIn account that is not used very much. It is difficult to maintain the various sites. The chamber needs someone to step up and do the LinkedIn account.

Handbook. Please look at the handbook on Google docs and make any suggested changes before June 1, 2025. Suzanne will take all the suggestions and make the final copy for approval.

New Business

We have a ribbon cutting on June 7, 2025 at Divinity Design on Mill Street. Patti Walker and Suzanne Walcott will represent the chamber for their grand opening.

Motion by Katie Nichols, seconded by Nick Sharrow to send a \$50 Memorial gift to Prairie Ridge Health for Scott Rose. Motion Carried. Patti Walker abstained.

Membership plaques and annual tags were distributed to each board member with a list of businesses that need to be delivered. This should be done as soon as possible. Please check with the businesses to make sure they are up to date with the years. Additional plaques and tags may be obtained from Patti Walker.

Wine Walk Committee will be meeting and planning this years event.

Motion by Katie Nichols to adjourn, seconded by Nick Sharrow. Motion Carried
Adjourned to Fireman's Park for planting of Redbud tree donated by the chamber. When we arrived, it was raining heavily. Photo op will be rescheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Walcott, Secretary