

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 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

Melanie Litchfield of Mel's II-Bit Ranch shared with the Chamber, the upcoming event, The Parade of Breeds. The children will present information of all the different breeds of horses that are at the ranch along with many other breeds of horses. This will be held on August 15, 2026 and wanted to make the event known to the chamber and hoping to get more people involved. They are asking for financial support from various organizations. Jaemeson Pohlmeier also shared about his business, Pohlmeier Design, and is working with Patti Walker on the new Chamber membership decal.

The meeting was called to order at 8:50am by President, Cheryl Besaw. Members present: Cheryl Besaw, Barbara Oelke, Suzanne Walcott, Patti Walker, David Bennett, and Tommy Kempfer. Also present: Melanie Litchfield, Jaemeson Pohlmeier, Kara Rake and Vicki Buss.

Motion by Barbara Oelke, seconded by David Bennett to approve the agenda for the April Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Barbara Oelke, seconded by Suzanne Walcott to approve the minutes for February and March minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account balance as of 03/09/2026 -	\$2,051.79
Receipts	\$1813.80
Memberships	\$ 325.00
Disbursements	\$1279.01
Google Suite	52.80
US Cellular	56.21
Columbus Self Storage	742.00
USPS	78.00
City of Columbus (Rental)	350.00
Balance as of 04/09/2026	\$3086.58
Outstanding Checks	76.05
Available Funds	\$3010.53
Savings	\$1,852.96

Motion by Tommy Kempfer, second by David Bennett to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried

Mail – City working on more signs around town. Amtrak questions. Vendor Fair at Redbud Days

Digital Report - There are 2173 followers on social media

Phone: Need to look at voice mail and need to change the phone sim card by May 1.

Old Business

2025 Membership tags, we just need to move forward now.

2026 Looking at window clings – would solve mailing problem. Motion by Suzanne Walcott, seconded by Tommy Kempfer, to have Jaemeson Pohlmeier of Pohlmeier Design, design and print a 4x4” window cling as our membership identification, not to exceed \$200. Motion carried.

Wine Walk –We will hold the Wine Walk on Small Business Saturday, November 28, 2026 with the theme being Masquerade Ball.

Redbud Days – May 7-9 with Red Bud Prince and Princess Contest, City Wide Garage Sale. Historical Society will have their pie and ice cream on Dickason Blvd, along with the local artists. DPW will pick up the trees and deliver to Wyvern’s Trove. Budding Artists Jam will be in the City Hall Courtyard. We will provide a canopy and sound system. Advertising for participants in the Prince and Princess Contest will go on Facebook.

Motion by Patti Walker, seconded by Cheryl Besaw, to approve advertising in the Shopping Reminder, going to 42,000 homes on May 4, not to exceed \$500.00. Motion carried.

Summer Concert Series will be held June 17th, July 15th, and August 12th this year and next year it will be handled by the Recreation Department. Old Rock will donate beer and volunteer bartender for this year.

New Business

Suzanne Walcott updated the chamber on the proposed Wind Farm for Columbia County, with 47 units at 750 feet in height, many of which will be located near Columbus.

Motion by Patti Walker, seconded by David Bennett to purchase 10 Redbud Days signs that will be used each year to promote the event, not to exceed \$150.00. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Tommy Kempfer, seconded by Cheryl Besaw. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Walcott, Secretary