

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, August 12, 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 meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by David Bennet. Members present: David Bennett, Suzanne Walcott, Barbara Oelke, Nick Sharrow, and Cheryl Besaw. Guests Kara Rake and Aynsley Trudeau from Fromm Family Foods
Motion by Nick Sharrow, second by Barbara Oelke to approve the agenda with addition of City-Wide Garage Sale. Carried

Minutes from July 8, 2025 were reviewed, motion by Barb Oelke, second by Nick Sharrow to approve minutes with addition of comment that Treasurers Report was received by mail. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: Aynsley Trudeau from Fromm Family Foods shared a brief comment about their company located here in Columbus. Primarily supplier of pet foods for North America and a small amount to Asia.

Treasurer's Report: via email Tiffany has our books and is finishing up our taxes. Final report will be emailed.

Digital Report: Cheryl Besaw reports that we have 2083 followers. Sharing information with David Bennett (Tourism) and he is sharing also. Event.com Before we make any final decisions, we need to evaluate the budget and look at the design. The medium level was recommended by email polling of the Chamber Board.

Several phone calls received about Amtrak, free state maps, and city garage sale.

Old Business:

No Update on Red Bud Days

Website update: Web redirect should have happened.

Handbook: Committee is working on it and we are making progress but making sure responsibilities line up with By-Laws and all works with Digital operations.

Need to get the additional membership tags delivered.

Wine Walk was discussed. Some concern regarding the licenses needed and costs. Checking further with the city to see if the process can be made easier and cheaper. Letters to participants went out via email the first of August with sponsorship letters

going out the following week. Several businesses have signed up and also have several sponsors.

Other Business:

A city-wide garage was held last year in cooperation with Oktoberfest. Should we sponsor again this year? We will sponsor it for September 26-27, 2025. Kara Rake will begin Promotional advertising in the August 28, 2025 Shopping Reminder. This will not cost the Chamber anything. Plan to get a map out showing locations.

Motion by Barbara Oelke to adjourn, second by Nick Sharrow. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Walcott, Secretary

P.S. We need to make reservations for the use of the room at 161 Building, so we have the location on the calendar and don't conflict with another meeting.

I did inform Amy Jo that we will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 but we need to send her an agenda also.