

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, May 12, 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

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by President, Cheryl Besaw. Members present: Cheryl Besaw, Barbara Oelke, Suzanne Walcott, Patti Walker, David Bennett, Nick Sharrow and Tommy Kempfer.

Motion by David Bennett, seconded by Barbara Oelke to approve the agenda for the May meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by David Bennett, seconded by Nick Sharrow to approve April minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account balance as of 04/09/2026 -	\$3086.58
Memberships	\$1467.87
Redbud Days	\$ 800.00
Disbursements	\$1767.45
Balance as of 05/11/2026	\$3587.00
Outstanding Checks	76.05
Available Funds	\$3510.95
Savings	\$1,859.89

Motion by Nick Sharrow, second by Barbara Oelke to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried

Digital Report - There are 2201 followers on social media
Phone: has been fixed to properly receive voicemail.

Old Business

Following up with Pohlmeier Design for the design and printing of 4x4" window clings as our membership identification. Delayed until after Redbud Days.

Wine Walk – We will hold the Wine Walk on Small Business Saturday, November 28, 2026 with the theme being Masquerade Ball. Save the Date notifications have gone out with good responses.

Red Bud Days – May 7-9 was a success. Only a Prince and Princess were crowned this year. Local Artists were on the boulevard along with Cornerstone Youth Food Group, the Historical Society and Budding Artists Open Jam. Had 34 garage sale participants with a map put online with 18,538 views.

Summer Concert Series will be held June 17th, July 15th, and August 12th. The Chamber of Commerce will cover the Insurance needs this year. There is a new state ruling that allows the city's insurance to cover future events. Motion by Barbara Oelke, second by David to approve the payment for this year's Summer Concert Series insurance. Motion carried.

The Chamber of Commerce will make the information about "The Parade of Breeds" available to our membership and will post information on social media.

New Business:

The Chamber of Commerce needs a sound system and canopy for events. We will address these needs in the new year unless we see a sale.

We will notify Columbus High School that they should hand out the Elaine Baerwald Scholarship this year.

Other Business:

Cheryl Besaw will work on a survey of members to see if they would be interested in doing an after 5 social hours several times a year.

Is the chamber interested in honoring outstanding businesses and leaders in our community who make a difference. Board members should check the other area chambers to see how they handle this.

Drawing for the Redbud Trees:

@Ease Massage Therapy – Suzanne Walcott
Cardinal Nest Nutrition – Mark Bussian
Farmers & Merchants – Jackie Roche
Forward Pharmacy – Wyatt Hoon
Columbus Heath & Rehab – Glenn Milleville
Columbus Chiropractic – Sue Mathwith
Prairie Ridge Health – Kerry Pasewald
F&M Branch – Noel Niehoff
Old Rock – Ana Lamphier
At Large – Susie Albrecht

Motion to adjourn by Tommy Kempfer, seconded by David Bennett. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Walcott, Secretary