

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, September 9, 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 8:31 am by Katie Nichols. Members present: David Bennett, Suzanne Walcott, Barbara Oelke, Nick Sharrow, Patti Walker and Cheryl Besaw.

Motion by Katie Nichols, second by Nick Sharrow to approve the agenda with addition of Parade Event/Holiday Hop, Food Pantry and City Events. Motion carried.

Minutes from August 12, 2025 were reviewed, motion by Katie Nichols, second by Matthew Bennett to approve minutes with removal of extra letter P and correct spelling of Matthew Bennett in members present. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Presently have \$3852.68 Checking account balance and \$1849.46 in our Business Savings account. Our storage unit has been paid through the end of the year, and money is coming in for the Wine Walk. Motion by Katie Nichols, second by Nick Sharrow, that the Chamber of Commerce continue to receive monthly bank statements. Motion carried.

We will have an insurance statement for \$937, which will be paid from our general fund.

Mail: Received returned letters for Wine Walk as we used their physical address instead of their post office address. Sept 20, Rotary is having a Raffle Dinner.

Digital Report: Cheryl Besaw reports that we have 2089 followers. Continuing to post Chamber information and promoting Wine Walk. Received our website activity. Need to redirect from JD Milburn to Chamber board members.

Several phone calls received about Amtrak and city garage sale.

Old Business:

Redbud contestants participated in in the July 4th parade and will be in the Holiday Parade. Ten trees were given away and everyone very pleased.

Website update: Web redirect should have happened but has not. Katie Nichols will contact Web Wisconsin to finalize and get rid of old site.

Handbook: Committee is working on the Committee Handbook and will meet again Sept 16 at 8:30 am.

Need to get the additional membership tags delivered.

Wine Walk was discussed. Tickets available online, advertisement being done on social media and hard copy is being ordered. Will be putting advertising out in stores with QR code so they can get all their information. Hermanson Concrete and Farmers and Merchants Union Bank are sponsoring. Motion by Katie Nichols, seconded by Matthew Bennett to approve \$500 to sponsor one of the Trollies for the Wine Walk. Motion carried. Old Rock is sponsoring one Trolley and Kestrel Ridge, along with the Chamber, are sponsoring the other Trolley. Need to get the signs ordered.

No update on Event.com

New Business:

Suggestion to do a Cookie Walk on Small Business Saturday, downtown. Would open to members at no charge, and non-members would have a \$10 charge. Chamber would promote, and each business would provide different cookies. Advertising flyers will be distributed at the Wine Walk.

Fire Station Truck and Treat- Recreation Department is handling this event with the Chamber handling the advertising.

The Columbus Progressive group approached the Chamber about doing a food drive with them. We have declined that offer as we are doing one in conjunction with the Wine Walk.

City Events:

The CITY OF COLUMBUS ZONING ORDINANCE REWRITE PUBLIC WORKSHOP & SURVEY to kick off the Rewrite Process of City of Columbus Zoning Ordinance. September 17, 2025, 6:00-7:30 pm at the Community Center Building. Survey will be available online September 15th-30th at www.cityofcolumbuswi.com.

City Tourism is teaming with the Historical Society to insert a flyer into the existing Historical Tour Brochure and place them in motels and Bed-n-Breakfast facilities.

There is a new opportunity for the city to have a local television station. City is seeking input as to the interest in this venture.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Walcott, Secretary