

**Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Minutes
August 28, 2026
7:30 am
Chamber Boardroom (In person & Zoom)**

Present: Eric Beier, Stacy Brown, Michael Buchanan, Laura Dzielski (Zoom), Mayor Haig Haleblan, Josh Hudek, Heather Maieritsch, City of Crystal Lake, Andrea Marquez, Kathryn I. Martens (Secretary/Treasurer), Katie O'Neill, Jake Schlicht, Chris Slack, Karen Tobin, Grace Todd, Tim Urban (Zoom), Michelle Wilson (Zoom), Catherine Peterson, President/CEO, Donna Sather, Chamber Executive Assistant

Absent: Eric Beier and Dawn Kinkaid

Call to Order

1.1 Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 am by Chair Katie O'Neill.

1.2 City of Crystal Lake: Mayor Haig Haleblan and Heather Maieritsch provided the following city updates:

- Batch Ice-Cream is opened and will feature a special apple cider ice cream flavor during Johnny Appleseed.
- Housing Developments: Single-family home construction projects are being prepared ahead of seasonal weather changes.
- Business Updates: Edy Boutique received final city approval on September 24 and is expected to open by the following weekend, ahead of the holidays.
- Regional & Council Meetings: Mayor Haleblan reported busy council and regional meetings, including naturally focused Q&A sessions with McHenry County.
- Proposed Community Center: Public feedback is actively being collected at local Farmers Markets. A presentation will go to City Council at the first meeting in October, with a final decision planned by the end of October to notify Northwestern Medicine.
- Pools vs. Track Facilities: Public interest exists for indoor and outdoor swimming pools. However, regional data from Huntley, McHenry, Cary, and Woodstock shows municipal pools function as a financial drain with high maintenance costs for only three months of optimal use. The Sage YMCA currently has two pools with capacity for new members (free for ages 65+ with supplemental insurance), and the YMCA Council will no longer fund new pool constructions. In contrast, there is a strong interest in a new indoor track facility.
- Funding & Property Strategy: The city will solicit private, state, and federal funding. A discussion occurred regarding the city's \$1 million Library property and whether operations could move to the former HealthBridge facility. No formal action has been taken on the library property yet, and there is no intent to convert it into a fitness center.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. It was moved by Michael Buchanan and seconded by Jake Schlicht to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2026 Board meeting. All voted Aye. Motion carried. Stacy Brown abstained from voting.

3. Divisions

3.1. FY 26/27 Financial Reports. The Board reviewed the Chamber's Financial Reports for FY 26/27 including the Balance Sheet, monthly and YTD P&L, Financial Report, and open invoices as of 8/31/26. The Chamber's Network Groups' Balance Sheet, monthly and YTD P&L, and Financial Report as of 8/31/26 were also reviewed.

It was moved by Chris Slack and seconded by Michelle Wilson to accept the Financial Reports for the Chamber and Networking Groups as of 8/31/26 as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

3.2 Capital Expenditure (CE) Financial Reports- The Board discussed building improvements and fund allocations based on three recommendations from the Finance Committee.

It was moved by Kathryn I. Martens and seconded by Chris Slack to allocate funds to CE as of 8/31/26 as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

3.2 Division Reports

3.2.1 Ambassadors - Stacy Brown reported they are contacting past ambassadors to attend the 10/15/26 event. Please let us know you are coming since Katherine and Donna are planning the refreshments. Apart from the memorial bench and plaque dedication, we are also revealing the improvements to the Chamber public spaces.

3.2.2 Community Services – Grace Todd reported that the committee is entirely focused on the upcoming Community EXPO at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn on **Saturday, October 17 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. There are currently 24 booths registered, with options available for both large and small booth formats. The current registration list will be sent to the Board of Directors. Marketing efforts are focused on public outreach. Logistics will include specialized focus on bussing local seniors, diligent attendee headcount tracking, and coordinated ballroom entertainment.

3.2.3 Member Benefits – Chris Slack reported that the Golf League concluded on September 24, 2026. This season we had many participants and was well-received. A committee debrief is forthcoming. The newly consolidated Leaders In Action 1-day seminar format was highly successful compared to the previous 6-week model. Major local employers like General Kinematics and Stryker sent many of their employees. The Dole Mansion served as an excellent venue, featuring a keynote speaker and utilizing Lou's Lounge and the mansion for breakout sessions.

3.2.4 Business Development - Michael Buchanan reported that he is continuing to work on the upcoming newsletter and has compiled a list of questions. He is considering reaching out to election candidates from both political parties to gauge their interest in participating in and in-person Q&A session.

4. President's Report (Catherine Peterson). Written report included in the packet.

5. Membership. President Peterson presented the Membership Report for the month of August. There were 13 new members and 2 members requested to drop. The Finance Committee recommended that 4 members be dropped for non-payment, for a net gain of 7 new members in August. Michelle Pineda will start as the Director of Marketing on October 5.

It was moved by Karen Tobin and seconded by Stacy Brown to approve the August 2026 new members and drop the 2 members recommended by the Finance Committee to be dropped for nonpayment. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

6. Chairperson's Report. Chair O'Neill no report.

7. Other Items for Board Consideration – None.

8. Upcoming Events – The list of upcoming events was included in the packet.

9. **Heard Around Town** – Johnny Appleseed is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and the weather looks great. McHenry County Farm Stroll will highlight 14 regional farms. The 51st Art in the Barn annual event will be held this Saturday and Sunday at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, featuring tours of their new teaching kitchen.
10. **Adjournment.** Chair O'Neill adjourned the meeting at 8:39 am.