

**Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Minutes
July 24, 2026
7:30 am
Chamber Boardroom (In person & Zoom)**

Present: Eric Beier, Stacy Brown, Michael Buchanan, Laura Dzielski, Josh Hudek, Andrea Marquez, Kathryn I Martens (Secretary/Treasurer), Katie O'Neill, Jake Schlicht, Chris Slack, Karen Tobin, Grace Todd, Tim Urban (Zoom); Mayor Haig Halebian, Catherine Peterson, President/CEO.

Absent: Dawn Kincaid and Michelle Wilson.

1. Call to Order

1.1. Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 am by Chair Katie O'Neill. With four new directors joining the Board of Directors, Chair O'Neill asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1.2. City of Crystal Lake. Mayor Haig provided an update:

- A new ice cream store called Batch is opening downtown.
- The former Out of the Box store will become an insurance agency.
- Dutch Bros coffee will open at the intersection of Main Street and Rt. 14
- Several new businesses at Water's Edge will be opening soon, including BBQ King.

2. It was moved by Andrea Marquez and seconded by Stacy Brown to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2026, Board meeting. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

3. Divisions

3.1. Financial Reports. Secretary/Treasurer Martens reported that the FY 25-26 financials had been reviewed by the Finance Committee at the meeting on July 15, 2026. Several questions and outstanding items remain in order to wrap-up the FY 25/26 fiscal year, so the Finance Committee did not forward the year-end reports to the Board of Directors pending resolution to the outstanding questions.

3.2 Division Reports

- 3.2.1 Ambassadors (Stacy Brown)** – Stacy Brown said there was not a formal meeting in July, but the Ambassadors met informally to discuss priorities for the coming year, including raising visibility and increasing membership.
- 3.2.2 Community Services (Grace Todd).** Grace Todd reported on the success of the Independence Day Parade. Planning has started for the Expo on Saturday, October 17 at the Holiday Inn
- 3.2.3 Member Benefits (Chris Slack).** The new Leaders in Action will be a one-day event on Wed., Sept 23 at the Dole, cost is \$125 per person. The 2026 Golf League is going smoothly. Planning has already begun for the 2027 Annual Golf Outing.
- 3.2.4 Business Development (Michael Buchanan)** – a new Division Vice-Chair is needed as Mike is now serving as Vice-Chair of the Chamber Board. Mike Buchanan said he was working with a Government Relations colleague to provide a monthly update.

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

5. **Membership.** President Peterson presented the Membership Report for the month of June. There were 11 new members, and 4 members requested to drop. The Finance Committee recommended that 0 members be dropped for nonpayment, for a net increase of 7 members in June.

It was moved by Karen Tobin and seconded by Stacy Brown to approve the June 2026 new members and accept the members that requested to be dropped. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

6. **Chairperson's Report.** None.
7. **Other Items for Board Consideration.** Karen Tobin encouraged Board members to submit their input on the President's annual evaluation by Tuesday, July 28.
8. **Upcoming Events** – The list of upcoming events through was included in the packet.
9. **Heard Around Town.**

9.1 There was discussion about the many positive comments received concerning the Independence Day Parade. A great time was had by all!

Congratulations were offered to Eric Beier as First Institute was recognized as a top 250 vocational school in the U.S by USA today. Of the 13 Illinois schools ranked, First Institute is one of only 6 that is not a community college.

Tim Urban noted that Hammortree Financial Group is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Congratulations were offered by all.

Josh Hudek encouraged everyone to attend the Young Professionals Mixer scheduled for August 20th at Sideouts Sports Tavern in Island Lake.

10. **Adjournment.** Chair O'Neill adjourned the meeting at 8:20 am.