

Columbia Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Special General Assembly

Prepared by: Myia Davila

Meeting Date: January 18, 2022, 5:30 pm

Location: Eagle Cotage, Columbia State Historic Park

Called to Order: 5:35 pm by Rosanna Sharps

Present: Rosanna Sharps – Chairman President, John Favela – Vice Chairman,
Jo Rodefer – Treasurer, Myia Davila – Secretary

Board of Directors: Michael Sharps, Janine Osborne, Nate Lint, Howard White

Absent Members: Howard White

Quorum: Met, 7 members present.

Guests: Jaron Brandon-Tuolumne County District 5 Supervisor

Kristan Robinson-Concessions Specialist

Approval of Previous Minutes: On November 20, 2022, minutes from the November 16, 2022 meeting were approved via email and posted on the Chamber website.

Treasurer's Report: Jo Rodefer, Treasurer

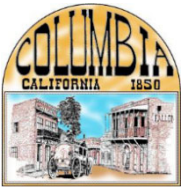
Current Balance: \$24,432.38 in the bank.

The ice rink is generating revenue above the cost of operation. Funds reported include the ice rink and the Chamber general fund.

Motion: to approve Treasurer's Report: Myia Davila; seconded by Michael Sharps; Board all in favor; motion carried.

Columbia State Historic Park Updates: Kristan Robinson, Concession Specialist, indicated that the stagecoach RFP (Request for Proposal) has closed, and the proposals are under review with the Award Board and no decisions have been made yet.

The concession specialist is working on writing three RFPs for the San Francisco building, the Questa building, and the Schwartz building. All three RFPs will be released at the same time and prospective bidders can bid on 1, 2, or all 3 locations. An additional RFP for lodging and campsites may be released for Calaveras Big Trees State Park.



The concession paperwork is in catchup phase but underway.

The exterior maintenance of D Block is complete, and a few interior repairs are still scheduled.

Restrooms by the Mercantile are closed until Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) can repair the sewer lines.

The Fallon Theatre roof repair has been pushed back as new maintenance issues have arisen with the large amount of rain (flooded basements, sink holes, leaks, flooded parking lots, etc.).

Columbia State Historic Park now has two rangers: Kyle and Jackie. The Columbia Ranger Station also acts as a visitor center and is open from 10am to 3pm daily. In the event of an emergency, concessionaires should still follow procedures of notifying 911 or Norcom (916) 358-1300 and not rely on a ranger being in the ranger station. The Ranger Station is the official lost and found location and where special event permits can be requested.

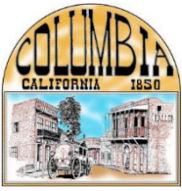
School groups are currently scheduled for January 19, 26, and 27; as well as February 4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23. School groups do not always make reservations and some schedule with the concessionaires directly.

Rack cards for 2023 have been proofed and Mike Merritt is working on prices. The Chamber's portion is reported to have gone up from \$800 to \$1,000. A discrepancy has arisen on financial responsibility and will need to be reviewed. Additionally, the rack cards should include the Cinco de Mayo event.

The Gazette building has a roof leak and most likely needs extensive repair.

Pigeons have been identified as a problem as they are roosting and dropping feces and eggs on the sidewalks. Many of the pigeons came from the firehouse and were rehomed during renovation by the Natural Resources division. Unfortunately, many of the pigeons have returned and are creating a maintenance issue for concessionaires. Tack strips may resolve the problem and concessionaires with issues are encouraged to submit a modification request.

Concessionaires wishing to install security cameras need to submit a modification request.



Sherrin Grout reported that Columbia has flooding issues approximately every five years and the last major issue comparable to the current conditions was in the winter of 1981-1982.

Tuolumne County Updates: Jaron Brandon, District 5 Supervisor, was not present and no notes were provided.

Activity Update: Columbia Ice Skate Park is profitable and supporting 4 staff members, 3 of which are high school students. The excessive rain has closed the rink for most of January. Operations are running smoothly. The schedule will change to Wednesday through Sunday and the ½ price day will move from Thursday to Wednesday. The new schedule should accommodate school groups visiting Columbia as most groups do not come on Mondays.

The skate park has had a total of 2,315 skaters and \$14,967.87 of the Chamber funds are from the skate park. The park received roughly \$106,000 in donations prior to opening with a total start up cost of \$134,387.10.

Event Update: Victorian Easter, April 9, 2023. Event coordinator is Rosanna Sharps. Planning for 2023 is underway. The cost of eggs may be an issue. The Chamber is planning on offering gift baskets again as this was an excellent fund raiser.

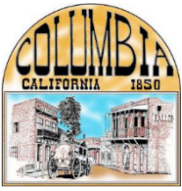
Event Update: 4th of July 2023. Event coordinator is Jo Rodefer and co-coordinator will be Justy Ragan. The 4th of July will be on a Tuesday in 2023. The barbeque will be provided by Rolling Smoke out of Oakdale. They will be charged a vendor fee of \$500. This will free Chamber members from selling tickets and coordinating service times.

The coordinators are looking for other fundraising ideas for the 4th of July which may include a dunk tank and stick pony rides. Offering hand-led pony rides may be an option depending on who is awarded the horse-drawn conveyance concession. In the past, Tom Fraser has protested the use of “outside” horses and ponies as they are a distraction for his concession horses and competition for his business.

Event Update: Columbia Art Show, September 17, 2023. Event coordinator is Kim Kyhl. The event is scheduled and no updates were provided.

Event Update: Harvest Festifall, October 14 and 15, 2023. Event coordinator is Myia Davila. The event is scheduled and already receiving interest and new vendors wanting to submit applications.

Event Update: Boo Boulevard on October 29, 2023. The event is a Columbia State Historic Park and Friends of Columbia event. The Chamber still has many bags from 2022 that can be sold. The Chamber candy donation request for 2023 has increased.



Event Update: Las Posadas will be on December 10, 2023. Event coordinator is Daniel Wright. The event is scheduled, and no updates were provided.

Event Update: Columbia Town Christmas Party, December 13, 2023. Event coordinator is Christina Lint. The event is scheduled, and no updates were provided.

Event Update: Columbia Winterfest Days of Music & Gold, 2024. Event coordinator is Michael Sharps. Further planning will depend on the revenue generated from the Columbia Ice Skate Park.

New/Other Business: The Chamber may not need to move storage items out of Fancy Dry Goods prior to Fall, 2023. The Chamber will be informed of updates.

Event Update: Cinco de Mayo-Barbara Balen. Ms. Balen did not attend the meeting but Teresa Torbett indicated that the event is scheduled for May 5 and 6 from 11am to 5pm and possibly extended to 10pm on the 5th. Friends of Columbia will be participating. El Jardin and Kate's Teahouse have expressed participation interest. The event planners would like the entire town involved and encourage the restaurants to offer an alternative menu specific to Cinco de Mayo. The next event planning meetings are scheduled for February 2 and 19 at 4:30 pm at Eagle Cotage.

Event Update: The Chamber was informed that the Equestrian Parade coordination has gone back to the original organizers and the Chamber will not need to sponsor the event.

Fire Information: The recent fire meeting on January 16, 2023, provided a history of fire services in the Columbia area and explained the difference between Schedule A and Schedule B. The Columbia Fire Station is now staffed seven days a week. The estimated cost to run a station is between 1.3 and 1.5 million per year. Concessionaires and residents are encouraged to attend meetings. The next meeting is February 9 at 5pm at the Columbia Fire Station.

Motion: to adjourn by Myia Davila; seconded by John Favela, Board all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned by Rosanna Sharps, 7:09 pm

Next Meeting Date: February 15, 2023; 5:30 pm at Eagle Cotage