Tourism Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 05, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Walcott at 6:21 pm. A quorum of commissions included Hammer, Famularo, Roelke, and Walcott. Staff liaison Bennett was also present.

Notice of Open Meeting

It was noted that the meeting was posted according to law.

Approval of Agenda

Famularo motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Roelke. There was no discussion and the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consider and take action to approve the meeting minutes from September 14, 2026

   Famularo motioned to approve as presented, the meeting minutes from September 14, 2026; seconded by Hammer. There was no discussion and the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance for comment and there was no correspondence.

New Business

2. Discussion regarding planning for 2027 National Night Out participation

   The commission discussed planning for participation in the 2027 National Night Out (NNO) hosted by the Columbus Police Department and includes various other City departments, committees and local organizations.

   Members of the Tourism Commission would host a booth to gauge the public's interest in tourism events and to distribute flyers with a QR code that goes to the local online events calendar. Ideas were brought up regarding providing games such as ring-toss, guessing how many redbuds in a jar, etc. Other possible activities included a meet the staff bingo card and historic Columbus trivia game. It was discussed that a canopy may be needed if space under a shelter isn't available.

   No action was taken, but staff will be in touch with the Police Chief to indicate the commission's interest in participating in NNO.

3. Discuss and take possible action regarding collaboration with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce for Redbud Days for hosting an attraction

   Bennett brought to the commission's attention about a grilling competition event hosted by Mad Dog and Merrill. The event is currently booking for 2027 locations and Bennett wanted to gauge the commission's interest in possibly bringing them to Columbus as part of a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

The commission asked about any details, but Bennett hasn't reached out to their event promote for information yet. The commission noted the success and popularity of the BBQ cooking competition several years ago and would like to see something similar again.

Bennett will reach out the Mad Dog and Merrill event promoter for additional information and will be gauging the Chamber's interest in the event as well.

Adjourn

The Commission wanted to get some ideas on how to bring in visitors to Columbus during the slower months, specifically January through April along with June. Additionally, they wanted to have the Holiday Train and Parade as part of a future agenda and to invite the new Recreation Director, the City Administrator, and Community Center Director to a future meeting to discuss events during those months.

The next meeting will be November 2nd at 6:00pm in the 2nd Ward room due to the Council Chamber being set up for elections.

Hammer motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Famularo. There was no additional discussion, and the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.

** These minutes will be approved at a future meeting and may be amended. These minutes are respectfully submitted by David Bennett, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator **