



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Convention and Visitors Advisory Board

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Monday, September 29, 2025  
12:00 PM

Regular

300 S. Providence  
Road - Thomas G.  
Walton Building

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair, Richard Walls, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

#### II. INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL

**Present:** 11 - Barth Burgin, Melody Marcks, Rusty Strodman, Aric Jarvis, Scott Cristal, Donald Laird, Richard Walls, Raman Puri, Kristopher Kunz, Jamie Varvaro and Lori Lammers

**Excused:** 1 - Heather Hargrove

City staff present: Amy Schneider, Julie Ausmus & Danielle Vardeleon

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as is.

**Motion by Cristal. Second by Strodman. Motion passed.**

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved as written.

**Motion by Vavaro. Second by Cristal. Motion passed.**

August 25, 2025 Minutes

**Attachments:** [MeetingMinutes25-Aug-2025.pdf](#)

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

None to discuss.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

None to discuss.

#### VII. REPORTS

September CVB Staff Report & Updates

On Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, a delegation will participate in the Columbia Leadership Trip to Columbia, South Carolina. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with local officials and business leaders to discuss issues similar to those currently faced in our community. Amy will also have an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the

Columbia, SC Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Director.

Amy and Megan McConachie will attend the annual Governor's Conference on Tourism at the Lake of the Ozarks on Oct. 7-9, 2025.

Congratulations were extended to members who were recently reinstated to the Board. A vote will be needed at the next month's meeting to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair for FY2026.

The NCAA Cross Country National Championships will be held on November 22. Weekly meetings are ongoing with the University of Missouri to coordinate logistics. The MSHSAA State Cross Country Championships will take place the week prior November 6-8. Additionally, the Sports Fieldhouse expansion is progressing, with extra courts expected to be available by Spring 2026.

#### Update Report from The District

Nickie Davis shared updates regarding safety and operations downtown. The CID finances are public records, subject to the Sunshine Law. The District continues to work with Columbia Police Department and City officials to identify ways to enhance downtown safety, ranging from improved lighting to exploring the possibility of housing a police substation in the CID office. Proposals have also been made to the City and University of Missouri for introducing safety ambassadors downtown. She noted that these safety efforts have been ongoing for over ten years and expressed enthusiasm that the community is now actively supporting these initiatives. Upcoming District events include the Caffeine Crawl this weekend, Halloweenie on October 24, and the Holiday Shop Hop and Lighting Ceremony hosted by Serendipity on October 25, which will also feature carriage rides.

#### Update Report from the Boone County Commission

The Boone County Commission reported that ongoing meetings are being held among Boone County, the City of Columbia, the Boone County Office of Emergency Management, state representatives, and law enforcement agencies. Commissioners emphasized that public safety cannot be addressed in isolation, it must be approached as a coordinated, community-wide effort involving bars, restaurants, churches, businesses, and community leaders across all sectors.

### **VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Barth inquired about the latest passenger numbers for flights between Columbia and Denver. Amy reported that the most recent data has not yet been received but is expected within the next few weeks. The Denver flights have been full, despite current enplanement numbers being slightly down.

Aric asked if the wrap-up report from the Show-Me State Games had been received. Amy confirmed it has not yet arrived but will be forthcoming.

## IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, November 24, 2025

## X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573.874.CITY (2489) or email [CITY@CoMo.gov](mailto:CITY@CoMo.gov). In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit [CoMo.gov/upload](http://CoMo.gov/upload).