

Circle Pines Membership Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2022

Circle Pines Center a member-based, cooperatively-governed (501(c)3) non-profit. Location: 8650 Mullen Road, Delton, MI 49046 Phone: (269) 623-5555

1. Meeting was called to order by Romy Fitschen , Chair, at 2:13 pm.
2. **Attendance/Quorum:** 48 members were present which meets quorum. There are currently 250 active members; 14% (35) fulfills quorum.

Board Members Present:

Aidan Albano-Bachtell Gary McClelland Deb Olson Romy Fitschen
Erin Sloan-Turner Meryl Domina Deb Rauens Benny Brewer Aaron Carlson
Meia Friedham Deb Rauens None None None None

Board members not present: Steve Walsh Tim Dwyer Ken Wylupski

Staff & Worktrade Present: Chris Schleuder, Gary McClelland, Deb Rauens, Noah Silver-Mathews

Members Present: Fred Besaiers, Jim Bates, Sheila Bauman, Elizabeth Barton, Kevin Brown, Nelson Brown, Susan Brownlee, Robin Connell, Sam Cooper, Amy ClayChuck Hakim, Bianca Danzy, Connie Davis, Holly Dekilder, Kevin Denning, Carmel Dylan, Yvonne Ferrara, Jean-Claire Fitschen, Amy Fromm, Jay Fromm, Knox, Al Haystek, JD Gonzales, Andra Gomberg, Miralda Illaria Hvinden, Judi Kinch, Fred Laich, Josh Olson, Dick Olson, Lisa Phillips, Nancy Rotecki, Kathy Siegenthaler, John Schneider, Paul Suda, Judith Transue, Tom VanHammen.

3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Deb Olson Seconded by Maia Meia Friedham . Motion carried.
4. **Membership Welcome:** Romy Fitschen

Welcomed everyone to the membership meeting. Called for a musical offering.

5. **Claire Fitschen's ice breaker game**
 - Keeping stack on zoom (z) Aiden; at Farmhouse (F) - Maia
Questions - How many here:
 - Made a friend 24 F, 8 z
 - Sang a song 22 F, 22 z
 - Buttermilk 20 F z11
 - Made a meal F 12, ___z
 - SAuned and jumped in the lake 9F, 8z
 - Cleaned goose poop off F 3; ___z
 - Helped build a F ___ z10
 - Been to a wedding at CPC F___ , z 8

- Helped care for someone who F____, z11
- Harvested Veggies 13 F, 10Z
- Raccoon in cabin or hours 13 F 11 z
- Foraged for mushrooms F , Z
- Lifelong friend F16, Z11
- Gazumba Tree fear f__ z 3
- Visited heartland

6. **Recognize New Members**

Romy asked all the new members from the last year to raise their hands. Thank you for joining.

7. **Land Use Committee Presentation**

Land Use Committee Report from Gary McClelland:

- Committee Members:: Myself, Christyl Burnett, Deb Rauens, Andy Bodenbender, Noah S-M, Miranda Hvinden, Bryan Heystek. Amy Clay and Earl Hall.
- Update on our Restoration Project.
If you recall, we had trouble getting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to commit to our restoration because Circle Pines is unwilling to use glyphosate or other suspect herbicides. We got their buy-in by committing to a multi-year “demonstration project” with Pierce Cedar Creek and MDNR. We have three sites - CPC, PCCI will use glyphosate and a site at the Otis Lake Preserve will have no treatment at all. For the first year:
 - We did botanical and entomological studies of the three sites.
 - We burned in March of this year
 - We planted in April
 - We got Fabulous results:
- Ken Kesson from DNR came for a visit on October 4, and was quite impressed. Ken is on DNR’s Research Committee and is going to advocate that they pay attention to this and pursue work on the effects of glyphosate and on the potential for doing these restoration projects without it. So, I would call this probably the best outcome we could have anticipated at this very early point in the project.
- Many of our other projects are getting less attention because we’re putting a lot of work into the new barn.
 - The wood shop has moved from Swallows basement:
 - The new shop has oak floor joists,
 - Hickory decking,
 - Cherry and Hickory workbenches,
 - Some storage
 - We got a bargain on a used cabinet, saw and a drill press
 - Earl Hall donated a band saw
 - Jim Bates and his brother have done most of the electric wiring.
- Projects we have been less attentive to:
 - Signage continues to be deployed.

- Our Circle Pines Signature Shelves - easy to move, easy to clean, no place for mice - are being deployed.
 - And, lastly, our lending library needs your help - when you come to CPC please bring a book or two to share with our neighbors.
- Lnk to Land Use Committee slides [2022 10 15 - Land Use Report For Membership Meeting](#)

8. **Directors & Finance Update** - Chris Schleuder

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G-PR-12f_r-JE9tVwdpccBpZMaKUJfg9?usp=sharing

Chris indicated that the financials for FY 21-22 (which ended September 30) are not complete yet. Hopes to have them to the board in December, and will be shared to the membership at the Spring meeting (bylaws) at the latest.

Discussion about the need to get membership notifications back on schedule and credit cards updated.

9. **Board Update** - Romy Fitschen

[Report Here](#)

10. **Announcements** - Romy Fitschen & Membership

- **Romy** announced that -
 - The Board will appoint a replacement for Dick Olson as trustee of the Endowment Fund at their next meeting. We thank Dick for his care of the fund for these many years. Any member who is interested should send an email to **Romy Fitschen** at chair@circlepinescenter.net.
 - The new ED search committee will be selected shortly from those who apply - deadline is this weekend.
 - Notice that there is a new email - the chair will use this email going forward, so even if you are not sure who to contact on the board you know to use this email address. chair@circlepinescenter.net
 - Board Meetings, and who is on the board. The names of the board members are listed at the bottom of the Board Chair report.
 - The 85th Anniversary has been scheduled for August 18-20, 2023.
 - People can make suggestions for musicians for Buttermilk by going to the website. Deadline is 10/30/2022.
 - Help is needed in the kitchen for dinner tonight and this weekend.
 - Full time staff and volunteers living on site introduced themselves.
- **Kathy Siegenthaler** will be collecting remembrances for a scrap book for **Sasha Ospina** . Anyone with thoughts, pictures etc that wants to contribute please email her at siegiesk@gmail.com. Art supplies on side porch to do artwork now for Sasha . Deadline Oct. 31 to make submissions to Kathy.

- **Jim Bates** is interested in developing co-housing the 10 acres donated. There is a housing committee with 3 subcommittees. Cohousing is one of them that members are welcome to join. Contact Judith Transue Gary McClelland Pole Barn committee disbanded. The LakeFront Housing committee needs to reconvene. Send Chris or Romy an email if you want to be on any of the committees. The Fundraising Committee needs members and leadership. Membership and outreach committee has met. The Facilities committee. Aiden is our VP in charge of Committee liaison. Summer camp and programming merged as an Education Committee. Kathy is chair. Contact Chris or Romy if you wish to join any of these.
- **Noah Silver-Mathews** Please free to play my mom's piano behind me in the Farmhouse. Current summer camp and year round staff we have so much to thank Chris, the Board and members to help us work around here. We need help. The fact that people have made themselves personally available to help during this time when we are between permanent executive directors. Many members are showing up a lot to help. We have 250-275 members. They don't all know each other, but some have been showing up a lot recently.
- **Fred Beshears** asked about the Social Media policy. Romy said she will send it to him.
- **Robin Connell** asked if we can set up payment directly from our bank accounts. Romy said she and Chris will get back to Robin.
- **Gary McClelland** - 9 people doing work here and 2 paid staff. Much of the work that gets done here is by volunteers.
- **Jim Bates** - Many people from Venezuela are seeking asylum, can the CPC sponsor any of them.
- **Karthy Siegenthaler** - asked about Work Trade policy - Romy said that the Board is working on Work Trade policies. But we need to get our finances from the past year done. There is also the ED search as a priority. No one asked me about our former director leaving. I put into the emails what I thought I could put in writing. I am here and you can ask me individually. We had to take care of the people and our obligations first.
- **Fred Beshears** will come to close up the camp for the season last week in October (next workbee). Lots of work needed in Junior and Youthie cabins and we need firewood. We would appreciate it if you can put in time this weekend.

11. **Adjournment** - Motion to Adjourn at 3:45 pm by **Meia Friedham** ; Seconded by **Erin Sloan-Turner** . Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Olson, Recording Secretary