

CPC Board of Director's Chair Report to the Membership - 05/28/2023

Greetings Piners!

On behalf of the board, I want to start off by again appreciating the dedicated efforts of our staff (paid and work trade) to keep Circle Pines Center running year round so that we can continue our mission to promote peace, social justice, environmental stewardship and cooperation. The transition of not one but two executive directors this year and implementing the first full year of programming since covid began has been quite an accomplishment. And of course a very special thanks to all the program and committee chairs, as well as our active volunteers in whatever capacity that looks like.

As you are aware the special search committee recommended **Eddie DeGraw** to the board in February, and we are grateful she accepted and has been onboarding ever since. She has stopped quoting the number of days she has been at CPC and moved into months and for that we are glad. If you haven't already I hope you will get a chance to talk to her this weekend or at another event.

My request to you is if you have feedback for her please let her know in writing or get on a committee so CPC has a constructive manner in which to direct our members' needs and input. It is in this manner that we can work together more effectively, rather than just be an individual voice.

Since our last membership meeting, the board has been through some transitions as well. Recently we seated **Aaron Carlson** as the treasurer, and accepted the resignation of **Ken Wylupski** and **Deb Rauens**. We truly appreciate all of their contributions, board, staff and volunteerism. We also approved 3 new Endowment Fund managers: Jack Gordon, Brian Kroll and **Josh Olson**. We thank outgoing member Dick Olson and appreciate his assistance in helping these 3 new members transition.

Following the Personnel Committee's after action report on the summer camp incidents last year the board has been making sure key things such a more formal onboarding of the ED, clarification of lines of responsibility and reporting occurs and key staff/volunteers happen, that grievance policies are trained on and as well as a bylaw review to name a few.

During the last year the governance document was rolled out to the active committees (we have included it in the membership materials) and we continue to try to align staff, board and committee work. As mentioned earlier, the board passed short term strategic priorities, and asked the committees and staff to make sure they were in alignment. These focused on fundraising, facility and financial sustainability issues mostly. My hope is that this summer/fall the board will gather the committee and program strategic goals and look at another short term strategic priority list. We have been discussing the staffing needs and addressing pay inequities. As you are all aware CPC has a lot of different programs and facilities to support and in my opinion we either need to figure out a way to increase our revenue for staff and facilities or we need to seriously consider the scope of what we are doing and scale down.

During this last year we had several special committees that we want to thank - the Bylaws committee and the ED Search committee for the many hours into their respective tasks. The overview of the proposed bylaw process is in the letter that went out with the proposed changes. Committees also helped helped with membership dues waiver policies, implementing a new membership database, social media policy, reviewing the personnel handbook, creating a facilities

improvement list and many other things (see committee reports and pardon if I missed things). We will be continuing to focus on getting the committees operating fulling, and need some organizational support for a couple. If you want to join a committee reach out to myself or Aidan or Eddie.

Again thank you for all loving this place.

Yours in service, Romy Fitschen, '22-23 Board Chair

Board of Directors 2022 - 2023

CPC Board	Position	Current Term
Aidan Albano-Bachtell	Vice-Chair	2022-2025
Benny Brewer		2022-2023
Aaron Carlson	Treasurer	2022-2023
Meryl Greer Domina		2021-2024
Romy Fitschen	Chair	2020-2023
Meia Freidheim		2022-2025
Deb Olson	Secretary	2020-2023
Gary McClelland		2021-2024
Steve Walsh		2022-2025
Vacant		2022-2025
Vacant		2021-2024
Vacant		2022-2024
Vacant	Alternate	2022-2023
Vacant	Alternate	2022-2023

Scheduled Board Meetings (Sundays 4 pm - 6 pm)

(email chair@circlepinescenter.net for information about attending within the prior week for link)

Membership Meeting May 28, 2023
Jun 25, 2023 4:00 PM
Jul 20, 2023 4:00 PM
Oct 15, 2023 4:00 PM
Nov 19, 2023 4:00 PM