

Committee/Program Reports/Lists 2023

Pardon us if we missed anyone....

Buttermilk Jamboree:

This was our first year back after a two year hiatus during the peak of COVID-19. Overall, the festival ran smoothly and should be considered a success. The weather was perfect with no rain during the weekend for the first time in Buttermilk history. We welcomed 49 bands including headliners: The Way Down Wanderers, Funkadesi and Zion Lion. Our systems worked as they should and performances were amazing. There were no unsolvable crises, no major medical emergencies, or security concerns. Festival goers reported having a wonderful time.

A major celebration is that we continue to have excellent volunteer retention. All coordinators but one came back into their roles for the year, and the one who didn't had prior commitments that weekend. We welcomed back a significant number of returning volunteers as well who have taken on tremendous ownership within their areas. I continue to make small changes in different areas to make these roles consistent and to address issues. We also welcomed several new volunteers who expressed excitement to continue relationships with the Buttermilk Jamboree and Circle Pines Center.

While we didn't see growth in line with previous year trajectories, this was to be anticipated and the festival overall should be considered a great success. In the past, we have seen growth of around 200 participants each year. In 2019, we estimated about 1600 attendees. Although our numbers dropped this year, this is most likely to be attributed to consequences of COVID and was something that we expected and made some adjustments for in budgeting. Our temporary campground permit is for 3,500 attendees.

Education & Programming Committee / 85th Anniversary

Education has historically been a central mission of the Circle Pines Center. The Education Committee provides input into various facets of The Circle Pines Center's educational and program endeavors, facilitates those efforts and provides coordination among them. This will be in accordance with CPC bylaws and governance policies, and will provide for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion considerations at all aspects of education and programming.

Given this broad mandate, the Education Committee will operate with subcommittees:

- (a) the Curricula/Program Subcommittee provides input and support of programming and content for member education/events and public education;
- (b) the Summer Camp Subcommittee provides support, outreach and documentation of summer camp, the summer camp directors and Executive Director

(c) the Digital Platform and Outreach subcommittee develops a digital platform for curating content and disseminating it to our various audiences.

The Education Committee will review policies as needed or as determined by the Board (governance) Policy register prior to Board approval.

If you have interest in our committee, we are looking for more members. The **85th Anniversary Committee** is an offshoot of our committee where most of the work of late has been occurring. We are working on how to support staff in presenting **Cooperative Principles** overview regularly at events. We are planning to meet with staff to get a better idea of what the new director foresees as specific tasks for this committee.

Our committee at present consists of :

Co-chairs: Noah Silver-Mathews and Kathy Siegenthaler
Robin Connell
Deb Rauens
Meryl Greer Domina

Plus 85th members:

Sharon Hyson
Connie Davis
Laurie Rotecki
Carrie Kartman

Election Committee:

The Election Committee are in charge of the annual election of the CPC Board. They conduct the election and soon thereafter count the ballots and announce the results according to the process.

Committee Members

Judith Transue
JD Gonzales
Natasha Domina
Steve Walsh (Board representative)

Endowment Fund:

The Circle Pines Endowment Fund has \$128,291.37 as of April 18, 2023 in its Fidelity account. The CPC account is up 2.07% for the year ending March 31, 2023. For the same period the S&P 500 was down 7.73 % and the Bloomberg Aggregate BondIndex was down 4.78%.

Current Managers: Josh Olson, Brian Krol, and Jack Gordon

Facilities:

Juniors Cabins have been a main priority. New metal roofing was purchased from a major donor. We have completed more than half the roofs. We have also started repainting the exteriors. A goal is to have all of juniors reroofed and with fresh paint by the start of summer camp. A donor has also gifted us the funds to buy new mattresses. We received a quote that is within budget to get electric to cabins 9 and 10 and are working with the contractor to move forward with it.

We have 3 new cabins ordered and have been prepping the sites for them in the orchards area. 2 are fully built and ready to be delivered. Our new electrician has given us a quote for getting electric to them as well. These cabins will help solve some of the issues with summer camp staff housing and generate more revenue as rentals at future events. It is estimated that they will pay for themselves in a years time.

All facilities have been reviewed and all needed repairs have been documented. We have created a spreadsheet to keep track of each building and to track our repair progress.

Fundraising:

from Deb Groban Olson, Committee Chair

CPC is necessary to growing the next generation of democracy, justice, peace, environmental and co-op+ activists. CPC depends on the generosity of members to keep it going. We have no parent organization. Our programs and rentals do not generate sufficient income to sustain CPC. As we have for the past 85 years, we still need your contributions and your work to do that. Please consider making or increasing your monthly contribution, or making a one-time special contribution at this membership meeting.

To date we have raised \$7,000 for new cabin roofs, and \$13,000 of the \$20,000 we budgeted for summer camp scholarships. Here is what our fundraising needs are for this year:

Contributions, Grants & Fundraising	Budget	
Contributions	60,000	*Donations above memberships (\$30k)
Summer Camp Scholarships	20,000	
Restricted Contributions Other Events	7,500	*support for worktrade / low income so events don't have to absorb
Grants/Other Funding	50,000	*for existing projects
Buttermilk Grants	21,000	

Buttermilk Sponsorships	5,000	
Sponsorships 85th	15,000	
Fundraising Income - 85th	3,000	
Total Cont., Grants & Fundraising	181,500	Items in Bold we need support in getting.

Beginning in January 2023, this committee has been creating the most comprehensive and institutionalized fundraising program I've seen at CPC in my 40 years of CPC fundraising. When our Chair, Romy Fitschen, appointed me to chair this committee, she asked me to create a perpetual calendar of fundraising campaigns, drives and programs as a structure that would continue over the years, providing staff, board and committee members with a schedule and reminders of fundraising campaigns built around all our other recurring and special programs and activities. We did this. Our calendar reminds us to seek foundation funding timely, create fundraising pitches in every Pine Needles, most emails to membership, and prompts us to have fundraising materials and activities at every event, and to organize fundraising phone call drives twice a year. Our dedicated committee members, through their hard work, has made a lot of progress. This is ambitious. Our small staff cannot do all this work. We need members to join our committee for these campaigns to succeed.

We researched foundations likely to be interested in our work, and put due dates for proposals for them into our calendar. We reached out to our personal networks seeking relationships between our members and program officers and leaders at local foundations. One of these led to Eddie and Meryl creating a proposal to the Kalamazoo Foundation in collaboration with the Kalamazoo Fatherhood Network, on short notice recently. Although we did not receive this grant, we will be better prepared to seek that funding in the upcoming rounds. We have been meeting with members, such as Kathy Siegenthaler, who has relationships with local foundations and potential partner groups for us to work with, but does not have the time herself to pursue grants.

Many foundations are interested in promoting racial and gender equity and justice. Although this has been a key concern of CPC since its inception, we have recently developed a strategy of partnering with local minority organizations to determine how we can help them reach their goals using our resources and facilities. We are presently focusing on Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, where we have good contacts. We are seeking input from the foundations on how we can best quantify our racial equity work to satisfy their requirements.

We are seeking volunteer committee members with a variety of talents. Not everyone must make phone calls. **We are seeking people willing to make calls** in our summer and winter fund calling drives. However, we also need people who can:

- share their knowledge and contacts with potential funders in their communities;
- do grant research or writing;
- Work on the holiday tree and wreath sale

- manage the administrative work of dealing with donor lists, collecting data from phone callers, sending follow-up letters and emails to donors, etc.
- write pitches (aimed at different constituencies -such as members, music lovers, foragers, etc.) for our campaigns,
- create artwork for campaigns
- sell ads for the 85th Anniversary program
- develop fun activities to use in campaigns (For example, we plan to have a live auction at the 85th Anniversary. We are seeking among our members for a humorous auctioneer, and people to find items to auction.)
- Manage and staff the CPC table at Buttermilk
- Develop pitches and arrange times & speakers for making pitches and collecting donations at Buttermilk (in coordination w/ CPC staff & Buttermilk Committee)
- Create and manage CPC tours during Buttermilk
- Provide materials and guidance for camper families and scholarship recipient families to promote CPC camp and events at their churches and community organizations;
- possibly run pies and jams events
- discover the many gems in our 85 year collection of stuff that can be sold in our Barn Sale

We are coordinating with the other committees to coordinate with their fundraising efforts. For example, the Land Use Committee is selling products at events, such as Buttermilk Jamboree; the 85th Anniversary Committee is selling ads and memorial ads in their program book.

There is now a Holiday Tree and Wreath Sale sub-committee planning a sale in Kalamazoo for next December. The Vine Neighborhood Association is providing free use of their us parking lot for the sale.

Special thanks to our hard-working committee members - Meredith Fitschen-Brown for grant research, minute-taking and managing data; Meryl Domina for grant writing, Millie Lambert for providing contacts to potential new donors; Steve Walsh for the tree and wreath sale; Danielle Hoskins for scheduling a Pies and Jams fundraiser for CPC; putting out donation cans at Buttermilk and making CPC fundraising announcements from the stage; making the Buttermilk sponsorship package available for the 85th Anniversary committee and assistance in presenting that to local investors and businesses; and to Eddie DeGraw and Chris Schleuder for providing information to and accepting many assignments from the committee.

Please call, text or email Deb Olson (313) 300-6517, deb@esoplaw.com if you are interested in helping our committee.

Land Use Committee:

See slide show.

Nominating Committee:

This Nominating Committee is elected by the membership at the Spring Membership Meeting each year. Their duty is to prepare a slate of candidates for the annual election of the Board of Directors and follow the Nominating Process. A current CPC Board member will serve on this committee or as a liaison to the CPC Board in order to ensure good governance and understanding of board business and policy.

Committee Members

Cheryl Leece

Chia Hamilton

Judith Transue

Kathy Siegenthaler

Aidan Albano-Bachtell (Board representative)

Membership and Outreach Committee

The Membership and Outreach Committee serves Circle Pines Center's (CPC) mission by recommending ways to grow, retain, engage, diversify and empower membership to foster a thriving and sustainable cooperative community. This will be in accordance with CPC bylaws and governance policies.

The Committee makes an affirmative commitment to increase all types of diversity in the membership and leadership of the Circle Pines community. All activities of the Membership and Outreach Committee will be conducted through the lens of equity and inclusion. The Committee may propose specific steps to actualize these ideals.

The Committee will explore what it means to be a member, taking into consideration the myriad of ways in which people connect with CPC. To support its efforts, the Committee may consider the successful efforts of other cooperative communities or nonprofits with similar goals. The Committee will also partner with and consult with other CPC committees to coordinate membership and outreach efforts.

In accordance with the cooperative mission of CPC, the Committee will strive to increase members' sense of ownership and commitment to the community by supporting the free flow of communication between the Board, staff, and membership, and the empowerment of members to envision and plan events.

2022-23 Activities

- Charter development
- Social media policy draft
- New member signage and facilitator packet recommendations

- Members email communications templates
- Membership events calling campaign
- Membership pitch
- *(And awesomely fun Zoom meetings)*