

**Circle Pines Membership Meeting  
Minutes for October 13, 2024 PM**

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. Welcome and Meeting was called to order by Romy Fitschen , Chair, 1:01 pm.
2. **Attendance/Quorum - 38 members in attendance; quorum is 34.**

**Board Members Present:**

Romy Fitschen - Aidan Albano-Bachtell - Caleb Carpenter - Aaron Carlson -  
Josh Olson - Linda Gellasch - Erika Tellez ; Heather Turner ; None ; None

**Staff Present:** Chris Schleuder - None - None - None

**Members Present:**

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Winona Albano-Bachtell   | 16. Cheryl Leece       |
| 2. Amanda Allen             | 17. Bailey Loch        |
| 3. Rachael Bild             | 18. Chris Loch         |
| 4. Mary Bourgeois           | 19. Gary McClelland    |
| 5. Kevin Brown              | 20. Madison Memering   |
| 6. Amy Clay                 | 21. Gala Orba          |
| 7. Robin Connell            | 22. MC Rothhorn        |
| 8. Samantha Cooper          | 23. Kathy Siegenthaler |
| 9. Carmel Dylan             | 24. Lorain Smalligan   |
| 10. Meredith Fitschen-Brown | 25. Daniel Swan        |
| 11. Andra Gomberg           | 26. Judith Transue     |
| 12. Alynn Guerra            | 27. Steve Wester       |
| 13. Charles "Chuck" Hakim   | 28. John Zimmerman     |
| 14. Bryan Heystek           | 29. Mariah Scott       |
| 15. Judith Kinch            | 30. John Schneider     |
|                             | 31. Anne Schweizer     |

**Board members not present:** Deb Olson - Isabella Friedham Perez -  
Maya Gomberg - Nelson Brown - Meia Friedham - Steve Walsh

3. **Consent Agenda (10) – Fitschen**
  - Agenda
  - Approval of [Membership Minutes May 2024](#)
  - Acceptance of [Board Chair Report](#)
  - Acceptance of [Executive Director](#) & Facilities Report

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda by John Zimmerman; Seconded by Chuck Hakim. Motion carried.

**4. Membership Welcome (15) – Fitschen**

Membership was asked “Would you rather be a minnow in Stewart Lake or a groundhog raiding the garden?” Groundhog took a strong lead.

**5. Recognize New Members (5)**

New members were asked to raise their hand and everyone congratulated them.

**6. Executive Director Report (15) – DeGraw**

[Executive Director Report](#)

Eddie DeGraw was not present, and submitted a video report in lieu of attendance.

**7. Board Update (15) – Fitschen**

- [Board Chair Report](#)
- [Program Evaluation Mapping](#)

**8. Budget & Financials (40) – Finance Committee**

- [2023 990](#)
- [Financial Report](#)
- [Budget vs Actual 2024 \(Not Final\)](#)
- [Balance Sheet 2024 \(Not Final\)](#)
- [Budget 2025](#)

Motion to Accept the Financial Report by John Zimmerman; Seconded by John Schneider. Motion carried.

**9. Committee Reports (20) – Various**

- [Archive Update](#) - Burnett
- [Garden and Bees](#) - Ruth/Scott
- [Facilities](#) - Scott
- [Land Use](#) - Burnett/Scott
- Nominating Committee: Reconstituted with the goal of finding new potential board members.
- Programming/Education Committee: Looking for new members.

**10. Announcements (10)**

Jack Gordon honored his father's long legacy with Circle Pines.

**11. Adjournment (5)**

Motion to Adjourn at 3:27 pm by John Zimmerman. Seconded by Aaron Carlson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Aidan Albano-Bechtel, Secretary