

Circle Pines Membership Meeting Minutes for May 24, 2026 1:00 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**
Aidan Albano-Bachtell , Chair, 1:20 pm. (10)

2. **Attendance/Quorum - 37members in attendance; quorum is 32.**
(10)

Board Members Present: Aidan Albano-Bachtell ▾ Heather Turner ▾
Kari Jo Sudler ▾ Josh Olson ▾ Linda Gellasch ▾ Maya Gomberg ▾
Caleb Carpenter ▾ Heather Turner ▾ Kari Jo Sudler ▾

Board members not present: Deb Olson ▾ Erika Tellez ▾
Aaron Carlson ▾ None ▾

Staff Present: Noah Silver-Mathews ▾ Chris Schleuder ▾
Eddie DeGraw ▾

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Albano, Teresa | • Carpenter, Caleb | • Dylan, Carmel |
| • Albano-Bachtell, Aidan | • Clay, Amy | • Evans, Mike |
| • Albano-Bachtell, Winona | • Coffey, Sarah | • Fitschen, Romy |
| • Allen, Amanda | • Colburn-Jaynes, Ian | • Gellasch, Linda |
| • Bachtell, John | • Connell, Robin | • Gomberg, Andra |
| • Bauman, Sheila | • Davis, Connie | • Gomberg, Maya |
| • Brewer, Benny | • DeGraw, Rebecca | • Gonzales, JD |

- Gordon, Harrison
- Gordon, Jack
- Greer Domina, Meryl
- Hakim, Charles
- Hakim, Stephanie
- Kaplan, Carla
- Kinch, Judith
- Larsen, Steve
- Leece, Cheryl
- Leece, Robert
- Libretti, Tim
- O'Connor, Maggie
- Olson, Josh
- Owens Bostic, Dakota
- Schleuder, Chris
- Scott, Mariah
- Siegenthaler, Kathy
- Silver-Mathews, Noah
- Smithivas, Mark
- Stauffer, Dawn
- Sudler, Karolyn
- Turner, Heather
- Uzarski, Carl
- VanHammen, Tom
- Yodzevicis, Skylar
- Zimmerman, John

3. Consent Agenda (10) – Aidan Albano-Bachtell ▾ (5)

- Approval of This Agenda
- Approval of Fall 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes
<https://www.circlepinescenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/25.10.12-Membership-Meeting-Minutes-1.pdf>
- Acceptance of Board Chair Report
<https://www.circlepinescenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Board-Chair-Report-Spring-2026.pdf>
- Acceptance of Facilities
<https://www.circlepinescenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Facilities-Committee-Spring-2026-Membership-Update.pdf>
- Acceptance of Landuse
<https://www.circlepinescenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Land-Use-Committee-Spring-2026-Membership-Update.pdf>

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda by Sheila; Seconded by Kathy S. Motion carried. - 05.24.26

4. Membership Welcome (5) – Aidan Albano-Bachtell ▾

5. **Recognize New Members (5)** - Aidan Albano-Bachtell ▾
 - Aidan welcomed the members who joined during the last year.
6. **Executive Director Report (10)** – Eddie DeGraw ▾
 -  Executive Director Report Spring 2026 Membership Meeting.pdf
7. **Board Update (10)** – Aidan Albano-Bachtell ▾
 -  Board Chair Report Spring 2026.pdf
 - Floor nomination and question and who is on staff
 - Silver-Mathews, Noah
 - Gerardo
 - Chris Schleuder
 - Eddie DeGraw
 - Danielle Hoskins
8. **Budget & Financials (45)** – Finance Committee
Caleb Carpenter ▾
 -  Q1(short year) fy 26.pdf
 -  May 2026 Membership Charts .pdf
 -  FY 25 Q4(July-September) Report.pdf
 -  Fy 25 Q3(April-June) Report.pdf
 -  FY 25 Q2(January-March) Report.pdf
 - Q2-4 of 2025 and Q1 (short year) present and review summary of all quarters completed
 - Costs of events explained
 - Various questions clarified
 - EIDL Loan discussed
 - Overhead number of days for summer camp and Buttermilk
 - Suggestion for additional collaboration on meal planning and food prep to reduce expenses vs. increasing pricing on event
 - Spanish camp vs. Buttermilk - a matter of scale
 - Summer camp last year 6 weeks, but this year it will be 5 weeks
 - How are programs advertised? Facebook group and monthly email is sent monthly. The event calendar is updated on our website as well.

9. Committee/Program Reports - Various

- Membership - Call to Action - Kari Jo
 - 📄 CPC_Call_to_Action - May 2026 Membership Meeting
- Summer Camp -
 - Tegwyn John - This year's CPC summer camp director introduction, welcome and questions
- Facilities Committee - Mariah
 - 📄 Facilities Committee Spring 2026 Membership Update.pdf
 - Reach out to staff and get involved.
 - A small crew meeting monthly to take care of facilities
 - Check with your workplace; some support volunteerism
 - Sustainably reducing “expensive” clutter and removing items that are broken down, along with other facilities maintenance items discussed.
 - Upcoming projects discussed.
 - Need additional collaborative communication and planning when determining how the space is managed (ie. summer camp activity to paint the barn, but that space was needed for a wedding rental). Need to think about the way common spaces affect everyone.
 - Need for equipment ready to go for BJam preparation
- Programming Committee
 - Get in touch with Eddie if interest in joining committee or helping with the committee
 - Spanish Camp - Kathy S.
 - 60th year of programming
 - No scholarship programs for this camp; working to change that moving forward. Grant assistance discussed.
 - Combining events this year (Spanish camp and BJam Workbee) to offset costs
 - Additional tracking for donations that come in “just in time”; continuing to work with the Board
 - Programming update by Noah
 - Speaks about the importance of non-net positive weekends but adults coming to these new events are yielding new members, candidates to the

board, and our summer camp director this year was recruited too.

- Caleb notes that many successful programs come as a result of a member with an idea and something to share.
- Winter Camp - success with Benny.
- Mariah suggests running a workshop during a program.
- Tom mentions the success of Mushroom camp and Spanish camp.
- Also consider leaving a portion of your estate as a donation.

- Land Use Committee - Mariah

 Land Use Committee Spring 2026 Membership Update.pdf

- Multiple people supporting this committee and our grounds
- Herbicide Report  Herbicide CPC Policy.pdf
 - Tracks herbicide use throughout the year
 - Led by a licensed treatment provider and help from knowledgeable volunteers
- Tree removal and saw mill getting up and running again
- Sauna was damaged earlier this year
- North Country Trail is interested in expanding the trail through the CPC area (but not on our land) and this could allow us to steward the land, and the NCT would help find the funding to purchase the additional land (multi-year consideration, roughly 2-5 years). A conservation easement would be required to do this. It would be land that is not currently owned by CPC, and it would become a part of this easement. This is early discussion and hypothetical, but may come up again in the future. The Board has been informed and further discussion will be needed.

- Buttermilk Jamboree

- Provided by Aidan on behalf of Danielle - buy your tickets, RV passes and cabins are almost completely sold out.
- CPC membership tent volunteers are needed
- Need volunteers for BJam workbee weekend

10. Election (30) - Election Committee - Mariah Scott

- Kari Jo, John Bachtell, Mariah remain; Heather has dropped from the committee.
- Can't run for the board if you are on the Election committee
- Any nominations from the floor: Aidan nominated and seconded by Romy F. - Amy Clay
- Motion to approve the committee members by Membership - completed and approved.

Board-Candidate-Info-Spring-2026.pdf

- Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members
 - Deb Olson
 - Romy Fitschen
 - Josh Olson - is rerunning
 - Erika Tellez
 - Aaron Carlson
- Overview by Election Committee
 - How many open spots for the Board
 - 4 positions for 3 years
 - 1 position for 2 years
 - 1 position for 1 year
 - 2 alternates for 1 year
- Introduction of Slate by Nominating Committee/Slate Nominees
 - Josh Olson
 - Claire Greening
 - Aaron Wissner
 - Floor Nominations by Election Committee - and Floor Nominees
 - Aaron Carlson - Kari Jo Sudler nominates Aaron Carlson, noting a miscommunication as he stated in the fall he was interested in running again - Tom and Josh provide their support for their nomination
 - Sarah Coffey - self-nominated and was supported by Deb Olson to run - Noah and Romy provide their support for the nomination
- Electronic voting will go out at close of meeting
 - 10 days to vote electronically, check your email

- Those with the most votes get the 3 year term, 2nd highest vote count gets the 2 year term, and so on.

11. Announcements (10)

- Tom - asks to consider reducing the number of seats on the board, but Romy said that was already reviewed and voted down by the Membership and the Board not that long ago as part of bylaws review.
- Sarah asks for people to come out to an organizing workshop June 5th-7th. It's a free workshop.

12. Adjournment (5) - Aidan Albano-Bachtell ▾

Mariah makes motion to adjourn, Noah seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Jo Sudler ▾, Secretary