

Meeting Title: 2026 Circle Lake Association and Fundraising Race Committee

Date: Monday September 21, 2026

Time: 7:30-9:00pm

Location / Virtual Link: Watnes House: 3480 Circle Bluff Ct, Faribault, MN

Teams Link if necessary

Facilitator: Solomon Watne

Attendees:

Solomon Watne
Dean Sunderlin
Lonna Selkirk

Berit Amundson
Jessica Watne
Darren McGann

Denise Bisbing
Dale Petelinsek

Jim Vogel
Lisa Carlson
Carrie Hopkins

Action Items:

- 1. Sponsor Thank-You Outreach (Lisa):** Jim sent Lisa sponsor address and donation spreadsheet to Lisa to send personalized mailed thank-you notes to sponsors using their donation information and addresses.
- 2. Lisa to Apprentice Berit in 2027 then take over Volunteer Coordination in 2028 (Lisa):** Lisa to get with Berit and figure out best way for her to learn ropes in 2027 and then take over in 2028.
- 3. Recruit Jim Vogel's Treasurer Successor as Term Limit ending in 2027 (Solomon):** Solomon text Jon Snodgrass to see if he's interested in being treasurer
- 4. Recruit Dale Petelinsek and Steve Peters to take over Sponsor Fundraising in 2027 (Dale/Jim/Solomon):** Jim and Solomon have been doing for 3+ years, and with Solomon doing Race Director duties it would be nice to get new blood in.
- 5. Recruit Kathy Petelinsek to Work with Denise on T-Shirt and Medals in 2027 (Denise/Kathy):** Kathy expressed interest in doing this possibly and would be good succession if Denise is ready transition in a future year.
- 6. Solomon to setup time with Kathy and Denise to coordinate New Merch Store on Bonfire Platform (<https://www.bonfire.com/>) hoping to launch in time for Black Friday and Holiday Season (Solomon).** Kathy and Denise get familiar with the bonfire platform t-shirt editing capabilities if possible and how to upload custom designs (like this years Race Shirt).
- 7. 2027 Race Improvements:**

- a. **Course Safety (Dale Petelinsek):** Evaluate additional signs, cones, or battery-powered warning lights for the Fox Rescue Corner and other high-risk crossings.
- b. **Town Hall Coordination Longer Rental Window/Mowing at least 1 week in advance (Berit/Lisa):** Confirm that Forest Town Hall is available and open for race operations next year (recommend reserving Friday 8am until Saturday 8pm on Race weekend), this will ensure we can get access to get Cones/Signs/Tables and setup for Pre-Registration Friday Night 5-7pm and put away things after race. Reach out to Forest Township and ask if Steve Trinket could mow at least 1 week out of race instead of the day before on Friday when we are putting out signs.
- c. **Evaluate Lower Cost Police Coverage Options (Berit/Lisa):** Reach out to Lonsdale and Faribault Police to see if they would be willing to work our race Sept 18th, 2026 at a lower cost than the Rice County Sheriff \$150/hr X 2 officers which was close to \$1000. Target \$50 / hr or a donation to their police department of \$300 or \$400 to cut our costs in half.
- d. **Refresh Race Signs and Brighter Bibs, Document Race Sign Setup Procedures (Jessica/Solomon):** Jessica to sort through race signs and get rid of worn-out or sloppy signs (thanks Solomon 😊) and organize into piles by how they are to be placed with a map for next year. Solomon to reach out to Bib Manufacturer to make Half/10k Brighter colors like Lime Green and Orange or something to stand out for directing runners at the 10k/Half Split
- e. **Identify Dedicated Race Sign/Cone Team for 2027 (Dean/Solomon/Jessica):** It is a big undertaking to put out the signs and we need a dedicated team to do this and also ensure the Half Marathon gravel road cone is placed precisely so we don't lose mileage like tenth mile in 2026. We should reach out to Dan Bartho and pair him with someone. Jessica should help to document the map for what this team needs to do in future years.
- f. **Update Circle the Lake Website to say only \$50 Boonies Gift Card to 1st place only (not top 3):** Solomon already did this, my bad.

Meeting Notes:

- **Race Results And Financial Performance:** Committee reviewed **2026 participation 260 registered – New Record, 230 packet pickup and 215, Total Net Fundraising PROFIT of \$36,000 – New Record** (\$32,000 last year) Race expenses expected to be around **\$9,000 dollars**. \$1,500 expense savings in t-shirt and medals lower cost designs.
- **Reviewed Race Operations And Safety Improvement Feedback Submitted:** Committee identified course-marking, traffic-control, weather-response, and facility-access improvements needed for the next race, including clearer signage, stronger oversight of the half-marathon turnaround, and additional safety measures at dangerous intersections.
- **Awards And Participant Materials:** The committee reviewed feedback on pins, medals, bib colors, age-display practices, and prize communication, generally retaining the lower-cost award approach while planning clearer participant information and more distinguishable bib colors.
- **Volunteer And Committee Succession:** Discussed replacing the treasurer, adding volunteers, transferring volunteer-coordination knowledge, and reallocating fundraising and merchandise responsibilities as current members' availability changes.
- **Sponsor Stewardship And Communications:** Planned more structured sponsor thank-you's, improved spreadsheet security, continued integrated website and social-media management, and less frequent email communication for already-registered participants
- **Town Hall And Local Partner Coordination:** The committee reviewed how Forest Town Hall, the local museum, Boonies, and Millstown Race supported the event and identified opportunities to improve access, coordination, and reciprocal assistance.
- **Future Race Format And Course Certification:** The committee considered whether to pursue course certification or expand the event to a full marathon but retained the current fundraising-oriented focus because certification and a longer race would require additional cost, work and support so rejected.