

MINUTES

Spokane Enological Society Board Meetings

December 5, 2022 | 7:00 pm | Meeting called to order by Claudia Hersey (Zoom)

In Attendance

Board attendees: Marlys Achey, Carly Cortright, Mary Gross, Terry Gross, Marty Hanson, Mona Henspeter, Robin Henspeter, Claudia Hersey, Paul Hersey, Ellen Hoffman, Barb Kogler, Marcia Plewman, Rebecca Sputhe, Kris Wedel, Jody Wende

Board absentees: David DeNio, Dionne DeNio, Julie Happy

Appointee attendees: Deb Austin, Kyle Goodwin, Deby Hanson

Appointee absentees: Charlie Rimpila, Eva Roberts, Jeffery Snow

Quorum? Yes

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 14, 2022, meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortright

Our Treasurer's reports show revenue for November which seems high, due to the revenue that has been coming in for the Holiday Dinner registrations; these totals will look different next month. Because of this, the ending balance appears inflated at \$23,800.15. Affinipay doesn't hit our bank account until the first of the following month. Carly is reporting the actuals, but may change the process manually in the future to reflect our balances a little better.

Last month's tasting did not quite break even, although the loss was small at \$305.59. The linens were delivered and not used, and we were not charged the full amount.

Membership Report: Deb Austin

We currently have 207 members, including three since last month. One signed up at the tasting and two others rejoined. There are 131 registered for the Holiday Dinner. The limit is 150 and registration hasn't closed yet. It will close tomorrow night.

Tasting Programs: Paul Hersey and Robin Henspeter

We spent a little more on wine last month for the Italian theme, \$2,800, and they were all really good wines. Next month will feature Paso Robles, with two reps each presenting four wines. The Daou wines presented will be a little bit pricier.

There are 49 bottles in inventory. One of the \$80 bottles at the last tasting was corked, and John replaced it, so that is in the inventory. We will give away 20 at the holiday event.

Special Events

The holiday dinner is next Monday, December 12, 2022. The poppers have arrived, and Mary agreed to head up a group to place them at each table setting.

Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson

We will hold off on extra special events while we are working hard to organize our regular tastings, so this is to be continued another month.

Food Committee: Mary Gross

Mary has not thought about a co-chair for the Food Committee, but will have some ideas at the January board meeting.

Claudia will have a committee of four, possibly Paul and Claudia Hersey and Mary and Terry Gross, who will take a trip to the Southside Center to assess our supplies. They will inventory, organize, and condense the bins and get them ready to move to a new location. This will need to happen before the end of the year.

Glasses | Linens | Swag Bags, etc.

Since our inventory is down to 12 glasses and 12 bags, we are working on placing an order. Claudia is working with GlassTech, who sent her sample glasses from which to choose. The group looked at them on the Zoom call and narrowed it down to the Vintage Premier and Schott Zweisel, which were very similar. They will charge \$4.70 per glass if we order a larger quantity, plus shipping and taxes, plus \$25 to convert our logo and a \$45 set-up fee. It was decided to order approximately 156 of the Vintage Premier. It is probable that some current members may want to purchase them. The swag bags will also need to be ordered.

Membership Recognition

Deb has sent Dionne a list of those who should be recognized. Dallas Palmer has passed and was recognized at the last tasting.

A/V, Social Media, & ZOOM: Terry Gross

Terry posted photos of the latest tasting. He still needs to get together with Charlie in reference to getting filled in as a backup to Charlie. Terry asked if he needs to bring a sound system to the holiday dinner. He offered to call to see if he needs to bring the system. Jackie is the contact at the Spokane Club.

Elections: Claudia Hersey

Elections are coming up, so everyone was reminded to consider nominations for the upcoming vacant board positions.

New Venue Search: Claudia Hersey

Claudia and other board members have been working diligently to research options regarding our regular tasting venue. The Southside Community Center was problematic last month when threatening to book our Monday with another group at short notice. Two weeks after that was resolved, SCC informed us that

Mondays will no longer be available for our group, claimed that we owed money that was not owed, and also claimed they had communicated the location of our delivered linens (which were not located in time to use). They have since apologized for some of these issues and have given us pricing for future tastings on an alternate day; however, they would not guarantee the date would actually be held for us. The pricing was 6.5% higher than it has been in the past.

The Southside Community Center option mentioned above was one of 14 options laid out in search result information sent out by Claudia and Paul in emails that were distributed to board members and appointees. Most board members do not feel that we should have to move our tastings to Wednesdays (with no guarantee of availability) and that our relationship with SCC has been damaged by the above interactions.

Many of the locations were ruled out due to pricing, requirement to use a designated caterer, corkage fees, or all of the above. That left two that stood out for discussion: The Talbot Event Center on Regal and The Shriners Event Center on Westbow Road. The two would be similarly priced, and were discussed as follows.

Talbot Event Center

The center has good parking, state-of-the-art audio visual equipment with monitors on all walls, accommodates up to 270 depending on table arrangement, ADA compliant, modern building, linens provided, allows outside food and alcohol, and they would not bump us for another event.

Some negatives discussed:

- They are a government entity and closed on holidays. Therefore three of our upcoming tastings would need to change Mondays: Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, and Juneteenth.
- The kitchen is a small "kitchenette" with an ice maker, with catering tables to arrange food in the hallway out of the way of the meeting rooms.
- Tables are classroom-style, not round.
- Very little storage, only a shelf for our biggest items. Other items would have to go back and forth.
- No dishwasher.

Shriners Event Center

Also good parking and a voluminous kitchen, with three sizes of meeting rooms. Their tables are round and linens are provided. They allow outside food and drink. They have a dishwasher, ice machine, and possible storage space. They have a big garage door for backing up and unloading supplies.

Some negatives:

- The location might be an issue, but perhaps only to those who live on the south side. Those north and in the valley probably wouldn't mind the change. All members will not be happy with the change.
- The A/V equipment is not as good as Talbot.

Discussion

Claudia asked for input as to when she should communicate the reason for the venue change with the membership. Should it be an email, holiday dinner, or Wineminder? Claudia will craft some type of communication. She was thanked by everyone on the board for all her extensive research and efforts toward the new venue.

One option is to try one of the two venues in January and the other in February. Talbot Center would require a move to a later Monday. In the meantime, we will purchase our event permits one at a time.

Today, Paul and Jeff went to the Talbot Center and were impressed by the A/V system.

Carly brought up that perhaps the Food Committee needs an extra vote. Logistics are important to them, and we should minimize any potential extra work that this move would require.

The dishwasher is an important factor. Hauling the pitchers, dump buckets, bowls, etc. and washing them elsewhere would be a huge job.

It was mentioned that we could supplement the extra cost of the tastings with the treasury, but most felt the extra cost will not be a huge burden and that most would be willing to pay a few extra dollars if necessary.

Both of these places are open to board member visits most business days. Claudia will let them know that there will be visitors. After these visits and more clarification, the board will meet again via Zoom on Thursday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. to decide on a January venue.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be December 8, 2022, via Zoom (special meeting regarding venue change).

The next monthly board meeting will be at a new location on January 9, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marcia Plewman, SES Secretary