

MINUTES  
Spokane Enological Society  
10/9/2023

In Attendance via Zoom:

Board attendees: Marlys Achey, Kyle Goodwin, Mary Gross, Terry Gross, Marty Hanson, Deby Hanson, Claudia Hersey, Skip Leasure, Lyn Leininger, Kris Wedel, David DeNio, Matt Dolan, Kevin Howell

Board Absentees: Debbie Austin, Ellen Hoffman, Marcia Plewman

Appointee attendees: Mona Henspeter, Robin Henspeter, Paul Hersey, Jeffrey Snow, Eva Roberts, Charlie Rimpila

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Kris Wedel.

The minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Carly Cartwright

Carly continued to express concerns about some of the variable cost items which are not always bringing in enough revenue. She stated the September report showed a loss of \$500.00. She cited that food costs were trending more expensive per person and the last few tastings have been in the red as well. Discussion continued about how to meet the rising costs including raising membership dues, raising costs of tastings, raising costs of dinners for non-members, and cutting down on the number of food items and food expenses. Jeff Snow reiterated that if people want quality, they are going to have to pay more. He stated that we must make money on every event.

Contract with Shriner's Event Center: Kris Wedel

Kris presented the proposed Shriners Event Center Hourly Rental Agreement for 2024. When reviewing the contract, some of the line items listed showed an increase from the 2023 agreement but Kevin pointed out that the total cost for 2023 was actually the same as the proposed cost for 2024. Kris stated the new contract needs to be signed by October 31, 2023 to lock in the cost for next year as well as our ability to bring in our own food in 2024 since the Event Center has hired a Caterer to provide food at Shriners events next year.

Claudia stated that the new contract needs to be negotiated with the Shriners contact person to possibly reduce some of the line item costs.

Jeff Snow suggested that he was willing to contact some of his Shriner friends to help with the negotiations.

The Board agreed that we need to set up and tear down more efficiently so we can be more respectful of the Shriners time limits for our events. The Board gave approval for Kris to negotiate and sign the new contract.

Membership: Kris Wedel for Deb Austin

Kris stated we currently have 180 members which includes 3 new members. There are 78 signed up for the October 16th tasting. Claudia sent out a reminder blast and will send another one closer to the tasting.

Matt Dolan said that the presenters could bring a bonus wine (Rose) which could be poured as guests enter or at the tables. The Board approved.

Tasting Programs: Robin Henspeter

Robin reported the wines for the tasting from Uruguay were quite good. He said there are currently 42 bottles in stock and he plans to bring 3 for the October tasting give away.

He reported the scheduled tasting for November will be Blended Wines From Around the World.

Special Events: Eva Roberts

The Holiday dinner is scheduled for December 11, 2023 and will feature wines by Chateaux St. Michelle. Robin and Mona from the Program Committee reported they were beginning to plan for the Holiday dinner wines. Eva explained that in past years, she had worked with John Allen, Vino, and the Spokane Club staff to plan the wines as well as the menu for the dinner, without the help of the Program Committee. Matt suggested that Eva be the Team Leader for the dinner and wine planning and that Matt and the Program Committee would help as needed. Eva has set a date to taste the proposed wines on November 2nd at the Spokane Club.

Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson and Paul Hersey

The fall Downtown Walk-About will be held on October 26th at 4:00 p.m. and will feature a walking tour to Cougar Crest, Helix, and Vanetta wineries. Guests will pay for their own tastings at the different wineries and can purchase their wines there as well. This event is being capped at 35.

Food Committee: Mary Gross

Mary stated she understands the need to keep the October food costs under the allotted amount of \$4.00 per person (September cost was \$4.43 per person). She will ensure food committee members turn in their cost estimates before the food is made.

Everyone applauded the food committee for their amazing plates and hard work.

Glassware, Linens, and Promo items committee: Claudia Hersey

Claudia reported the inventory has 110 glasses with the new logo, 25 glasses with the old logo, no port glasses, and 47 Swag Bags.

Education Director: Jeff Snow

Marlys Achey reported that 15 people attended the first Wine 101 Class including some new members as well as some long term members. All said they found the class interesting and entertaining. Other Board members stated they had received positive comments as well about the class. The Wine 101 committee will be meeting again soon to plan their next class. Everyone at the Board meeting congratulated the committee on the great job and the good mix of people and topics covered at the class.

A/V Entertainment/Social Media/ZOOM admin

Terry Gross suggested putting more information re: SES events and tastings on Face Book. The Board agreed.

Website Update: Charlie Rimpila

Charlie reported that a meeting was scheduled on Friday to continue training Terry Gross and Mary Ann Goodwin regarding the Website. Debbie Austin will also attend to share issues re: difficulty people are having signing up for tastings and events.

Upcoming Dates:

The next tasting will be October 9, 2023 at Shriners.

The downtown Walk About will be October 26, 2023.

The next Board Meeting will be November 13, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Leininger, SES Vice President