Minnesota Grape Growers Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Zoom

July 15, 2024

I. **Roll Call and Agenda Review**

VP Krista Kopperud called to order the Monthly Meeting of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association Board of Directors at 9:05am on July 15, 2024, over Zoom.

Luke Stultz and Melanie Cihlar present.

Roll call

	Josie Boyle	X	Jenny Ellenbecker
X	Krista Kopperud	X	John Taylor
X	Becca Moinichen	X	Paige Bouc
X	John Howe	X	Richard Uytdewilligen
	Blake Luehmann		
X	Bryan Forbes		
X	Randy Gutzman		
X	Ben Banks		
	Kevin Kautz		

MINUTES:

Approval of Previous Meeting:

- Motion to accept minutes by George, seconded by John Howe. Motion carries.

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Agenda Review – VP Krista Kopperud
    a. Agenda approval. Motion moved by Brayn. Seconded by Jenny. Motion Carries.
    b. Introduction of Luke Stultz - 6 month contract to support MGGA. Luke gave introduction of himself. He is also the Executive Director of the cider guild.
2. Minutes Approval – Becca Moinichen
    a. 6/17/24 Minutes - Motion for approval by Randy. Seconded by Bryan.
3. Finance Committee – Krista Kopperud and John Taylor - Taylor getting bank account access today. They are in the process of transitioning everything to John. Hoping to get financials out to everyone by the next meeting to get an idea of where the financials are.
    a. Treasurer's Report - Krista: 9,423.23 deposited in the last 30 days. 3,684.70 in expenses (paid Clifton Larson Allen for yearly accounting/tax work). Current balance is 81,992.96 in checking account, 59,108.35 in savings. A few memberships but most income is from the wine competition.
    b. Bookkeeping Contract - Danielle Burg from Slayton. Contract sent to MGGA Board to see her hourly rate. She's guessing maybe an hour or two a month. Shouldn't take a lot of time once we are set up. Might take a little more time until then. Motion to approve the contract by Ben. Seconded by Randy.
4. ICCWC – Ben Banks
    a. Update - Doing quite well. Up to 256 entries from 44 wineries. Should be more coming in this week. Expecting 275-300 entries. Down from previous years, but good response since pushing this earlier and earlier in the year. 20 judges so far, waiting for 1 more response. Only 1 out of state judge to cut down on costs. Purchased everything needed to be purchased. About 4,000 in profit is expected. Would be up to 6,000 if we get 300 entries. Ben hasn't gotten reimbursement yet. Still low on volunteers. We have 17 on wed and 7 on tues. Wanting 20-21 on Wednesday. Luke will be the scorekeeper. Ben is to make things easier and smoother behind the scenes. Drew helping Ben. Good response to moving competition up to May. John Taylor will be there both days, too. He's doing the judges training on Tuesday. Ben is trying to find a venue for the training; wanting to host at a local winery. No objection to hosting at Sovereign Estate. Ben and John discussed expectations for the Tuesday night judges training.
5. Cold Climate Conference – Randy Gutzmann
    a. Update - Feb 25-26 at Waterstreet Inn. Asking who is interested in the planning committee. John Taylor said Jaimeson is interested. John is also interested; he has been speaking with Bryan about speakers.
6. Legislative Committee – Jenny Ellenbecker had to leave.
    a. State Grape survey - Krista spoke about the survey that went out. Josie sent out a reminder about it. Hoping to have results in the next meeting. No updates from John Howe. John Taylor

asked about any thoughts on getting a legislative day for the MGGA at the capital to help move this along. Howe said he will talk to Jenny about moving things along.

7. State Fair Booth – Becca Moinichen
    a. About half is full for the volunteer sign up. There is a group meeting next week to followup on next steps. There are 2 speakers - John Thull and Soon Li Teh - giving 15-20 minute presentations.

8. Wine Marketing Committee – Krista Kopperud
    a. Minnesota Wine Day - Melanie Cihlar presented an update from the committee. MN wine day - Saturday of labor day weekend. Many promotional opportunities going on - postcards and posters. Asking for approval was originally 2,000, but now expecting it to be more. Wanting to print 500 postcards and 2 posters for wineries and to have at the fair. Already 2 printers in mind, but the quoted amount came from one. Krista asked if we could approve up to a certain amount, to encourage multiple bids. Wineries could request how many postcards they prefer to have. 500 could be too many for smaller wineries. Luke to help with some of the website things. We can always print more, if the postcards go fast. Instead of asking wineries to pitch in for costs, the idea was to give this to the wineries as an "olive branch". Maybe we could ask for help if we need to print more.
    b. Luke asked if the email that comes from our website is sent to just members or all MN wineries, regardless of membership. We have membership from WI wineries, too. Randy is to send Luke a list of all MN wineries.
    c. Richard asked about tracing the QR code back to where the postcard or poster was picked up. QR code goes to the facebook page now.
    d. Krista asked if there is a thought or proposal to present to the Wine Marketing Committee - John Taylor proposed half the number of postcards and 2 posters. $1600 for the effort. We can do more printing if we need. Reevaluate for next year. Bryan agrees.
    e. John Taylor moves that we allocate $1600 for the MN Wine Committee printing costs. Richard seconds. Discussion: Richard would like to track the QR code. Luke says not to a specific winery. John Howe suggested talking to newspapers about printing. Krista agrees with reevaluating for next year after we see how this goes. Motion Carries.

9. By-laws and Membership – Bryan Forbes
    a. New by-laws draft - changes as amendments to preserve integrity of current bylaws. Bryan gave quick highlights, such as wanting to help us as an organization run smoother by putting the focus back on industry as a commercial and professional organization and moving forward. For instance, changing name of our organization and trying to do some reordering and some rewording in the bylaws. Working on deciding a minimum for board number and upping the maximum, distinguishing small vs large wineries, and adding officer timelines and responsibilities (treasurer as 3- year term, update VP role as head of committee, etc.).
    b. Richard suggested having new members sign an agreement when they join the board.
    c. Need conflict of interest form for new board members - John Taylor to find it and to have for the next meeting. Becca to be the "keeper of the documents".

10. New Business

a. Luke - we can use dynamic QR code to give GPS location, time of day, etc but it is $450 a year.

11. Adjourn - Randy moved. Richard second.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08am.

Meeting Minutes Submitted By Becca Moinichen