

Saanich Sommeliers
Regular Monthly Club Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, March 9, 2021

This educational components and meeting were once again held through Zoom.

We began the zoom call with some social conversations to catch up on each other's activities. It is nice to be able to connect socially. We did have our educational sessions first – in order to accommodate our guest speaker.

Quick Fix

- This was facilitated by Jack Miller

Educational Presentation

The Eco gastronomy Initiative at UVic

- Hosted by Dr John Volpe, Professor – School of Environmental Studies

Saanich Sommelier Meeting - Minutes

Call to Order at 8:30 pm by Mike McInnis

- A quorum was declared with 24 “member families” in attendance.
- A new guest, Marlon Martens, was welcomed to our meeting.

Review of Minutes from February, 2021 meeting:

MOTION: *To accept the minutes of the February 9th meeting as distributed.*

Moved by Dawn Robson and seconded by Ron Ramsdale. All voted in favour and carried.

Reports/Discussions – as provided:

- Treasurer (Leanna Rathkelly)
 - Dues from all members have been received with the e-transfers successful and one trip to the bank!
 - Bank Balance is \$11,012.17
 - Based on that healthy balance and on impetus from Jack's question last month, we have formed a committee to develop a policy on our cash reserves. During the next month we will explore
 - Annual operating costs
 - Expected income
 - Equipment maintenance and upgrade costs and requirements
 - Legal issues for non-profit bank account balancesWe will have a zoom discussion, develop a draft policy and then present it to members.
- Vice President (Udo and Anna Kenklies)
 - For our April Meeting, we will have a presentation by a California wine broker. This will include a short presentation on where grapes are from and how the system works.
 - For our May meeting, Ken & Ron will be doing a presentation on finishing white wines.
- Communications Officer (Ken Stepushyn)
 - Nothing to report.

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- Competition Coordinator (Sandy Bellows):
 - We had a great turnout for our competition, with 72 entries covering the whole spectrum of wines.
 - The Homers finished the judging today and there were some great wines submitted – and many people did very well.
 - Sandy will send comments back to the individual winemakers over the next two weeks and winners will be announced at the next meeting.
 - We would like to have the winners of our competition speak about how they made their wine at the September meeting.
 - Special thanks to Rick and Mary Homer for doing the judging!!
 - There are no results from the Chilliwack competition yet.

- Grape Sourcer (Ron Ramsdale, with Derek & Melanie Winniki)
 - A grape survey was distributed with the meeting notice. (If you can't find it, Dawn can forward) The intent of the survey is to get an understanding of the type and quantity of grapes that people are looking for this year.
 - Please try to complete by March 15th.

- BCAWA (Colin Nicholson)
 - A letter from BCAWA was circulated in advance of the meeting and discussed.
 - The following discussion ensued:
 - There may not be time or the ability to do a provincial competition during COVID
 - BCAWA has not been active & that could be a problem for the longevity of the club.
 - Perhaps there is another role that they could play vs the competition.
 - A lot of clubs don't seem to want to host the competition. There was also discussion about viability/cost of the competition.
 - It is good to promote inter-club competitions
 - The premise of the letter as it pertained to requesting our input was:
 - Would the clubs be interested in participating in a provincial competition in 2021?
 - Motion: Saanich Sommeliers encourage BCAWA, in conjunction with the BCGWJ, to explore methods of organizing a provincial competition within COVID guidelines in 2021." Moved by Robin McNeil and Seconded by Rick Homer.
 - After discussion, the vote was called.
 - 5 opposed, the rest in favour. Passed.
 - Colin will pass on this information to BCAWA.

- Wine Steward (Ron Ramsdale for Tom Sibbald)
 - The draw wine is a 2018 Petalos, Mencia Bierzo Spain. This highly rated Spanish wine is \$44.00 out the door. Created by the iconic Spanish producer Alvaro Palacios; this wine is a blend of 93% Mencia and 7% other varietals - biodynamically farmed from 60 yr. vines.

Other Business - None

Health and Welfare

- Don Wand, a long time member of the Saanich Sommeliers is turning 95 on March 5th. He is still living in his own home on Newport Ave & is wished a "Happy Birthday!"

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Final Notes

- The wine draw was won by Sheridan Scott. Very fitting as she organized our speaker for this evening!

Adjournment:

- The adjournment was called at 9:10
- Our next meeting will be held on zoom and take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.