

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017
HELD at the BISHOP'S RANCH – HEALDSBURG, CA 95448**

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m., after dinner, by 2016 President William Fumich, Jr. Bill introduced the other members of the 2016 Board: Chip Hay (Treasurer), Judith Olney (Secretary), Will Rosenzweig (Chair, 2016 Picnic) and Steve Shiflitt (Chair, 2017 Annual Meeting).

Bill thanked the Executive Director and Staff of the Bishop's Ranch, and Steve and Cheryl Shiflitt for a great dinner. Bill also recognized local businesses who supported the WCA Annual Meeting: La Tavola Fine Linen Rental donated table cloths, the Rochioli and Merriam wineries each donated 6 bottles of wine.

Membership Report: Results of Ballot to approve new 2017 Westside Community Association By-Laws: Membership renewal forms were sent via US Mail the week of December 26th to all known addresses in the Westside Area. Membership renewal reminders were then sent via e-mail on January 8th, and the proposed 2017 By-Laws and minutes from the 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings were sent via e-mail on January 20th.

As of 5 p.m. on January 29, 2017, the WCA had 108 paid memberships, with 59 members attending the Annual Meeting. A 50 percent quorum was achieved with 88 percent of the ballots favoring adoption of the new By-Laws. President Bill Fumich declared the amended by-laws were adopted.

Membership Drive Extended by Board: Given the new boundaries of the Westside Area, a second letter will be sent to addresses on Foreman and Felta Roads the week of January 30th, and membership eligibility will be held open through February 2017.

Member John Bucher raised the concern that all the members did not have an opportunity to vote on the By-Laws, and that he has some specific suggestions. President Fumich stated that the voting protocols met the requirements of the existing WCA By-Laws and the Board will address any concerns raised by members.

Election of all five (5) 2017 Board Members: Through February, the WCA is requesting any member interesting in serving on the Board for either a 2 year term or 4 year term, contact a Board Member and provide a Bio as to your goals in supporting the mission of the organization.

In early March, a slate of proposed Board Members, with Bios, will be sent to the Members via e-mail or US Mail, only if a member does not have an e-mail

address. Again, the WCA emphasized that communications were moving more toward electronic means, and every member should have a unique e-mail address for voting rights. Per the By-Laws the Directors will elect a President, Treasurer, and Secretary for submittal to the CA Secretary of State filings.

Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes: The President requested whether there were any corrections to the 2016 Meeting Minutes; no corrections were identified and the January 31, 2016 WCA Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Member John Bucher raised the concern of transparency in communications. Bill requested whether anyone wanted to sign up as Communication Chair – no one volunteered. As a reminder, all past members and residents of the Westside Area received a US mailed letter in December and the January 8, 2017 e-mail letter from William Rosenzweig that listed and provided links for the WCA communication tools – Westside infoZone, which has been the primary communication tool since 2015, with all communications and linked attachments available to members. Our WCA Facebook page is used for pictures and community building.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chip Hay reported that our bank balance, after 2016 commitments and annual dinner expenses would be about \$9,000.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Spring Road Clean up – HOLD the DATE – April 15th. Chair Dane Pitcher reminded everyone of the date and the potluck “community get together” at the Rafor Inn. Member Diane Bucher stated that each participant in the cleanup would be gifted a bottle of Bucher wine.

WCA Advisory Committee: Advisory Member William Fumich reported that Directors from the WCA and Wohler Bridge associations will meet with Supervisor Gore and heads of key departments on February 6, 2017 to discuss non-winery related issues raised by our members. Bill thanked our members who sent in their concerns relative to road safety, maintenance and speed limits, and concerns with the County's proposed vacation rental ordinance. Supervisor Gore will also be setting up a meeting with representatives from the Winery Working Group on proposed guidelines for the Westside area of over-concentration and standards for the proposed Winery Event Ordinance.

Member John Bucher recommended that the WCA hold a town-hall meeting at Felta School to discuss these proposed Ordinances when they are released in Draft form. The Directors agreed to schedule and hire a professional facilitator to manage the meeting.

2014 Westside Preservation Petition: A pdf of the 107 Westside Area verified signatures and 24 signatures from other concerned citizens has been has been

posted on infoZone since 2014 under Take Action > Westside Road Petition, (http://wasa.nationbuilder.com/westside_petition)

The Petition reads: "Our community is concerned about the over-development along Westside Road. We, the Westside Community Association, request that the County define a focused set of guidelines for approval of new wineries and event permits that address cumulative effects and that protect the farm heritage, rural character, and the peace, safety, and well being of the community along this scenic corridor."

NEW BUSINESS

2017 Annual Meeting Competition: Judith Olney reminded members that at the 2016 Annual Meeting our competition was to identify all the historic structures and properties in the Westside Area. Meredith Dreisiback won the competition by identifying the majority of the 43 properties.

Our competition this year was to provide a guess as to: "How many landowners in the Westside Area (defined as Westside – Kinley – Felta – Mill Creek – Foreman and Sweetwater roads) are members of the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission? (i.e. how many properties are grape growers).

Submittals ranged from 25 to 725 properties. Speaker and President Karissa Kruse stated their database revealed there **are 119 vineyard properties**. The winner was Cheryl Shiflitt who submitted 120 landowners and the 2nd runner up was Sue Balala who guessed 200 properties.

Karissa posed another challenge for the Westside Area in 2017 – increase our level of Sustainability Certifications: Our 119 properties represent 3,500 acres, which is 5 percent of the County's vineyard land even though 40 percent of the properties are less than 20 acres in size. She also clarified that to be an assessed member of the Winegrape Commission; a grower must sell more than 25 tons of grapes annually. Only 85 percent of the Westside Area's vineyards are Certified Sustainable – the cost of assessment is \$1,200, with a \$400 voucher and opportunity for smaller vineyards to share assessment and audit costs.

Speaker Introduction: Karissa Kruse, Sonoma County Winegrowers President: Karissa has been working in support of farming since 2007: She has an MBA from Wharton, has worked for General Mills and promoting Chicago Dairy Farmers prior to being selected as President of the Winegrowers in 2012 – upon Nick Frey's retirement.

Karissa knows first hand how hard it is to be a farmer as she has 5.8 acres planted on Sonoma Mountain Road. We all toasted to living in Sonoma County and our commitment to promote and protect agricultural lands. She noted that worldwide,

40 acres of Ag land are lost per hour and in CA 40,000 acres of Ag land go out of production annually.

Karissa provided information from the Sonoma County Winegrowers' 3rd Annual Sustainability Report (Those of us who are members of the Winegrowers received a copy of the report via US Mail, and for other members, we've provided a pdf on the Westside infoZone) Sonoma County is recognized world wide as a leader in Sustainability, with a program built from the 138 best practices identified by the CA Wine Institute, Sustainability Alliance with criteria for grape growing practices, commitment to community and workers, and financial viability.

Sonoma County Winegrowers set a goal of having 100% of their members Certified Sustainable by 2019. And, sadly, given immigration issues, the Winegrowers are recommending that replanted vineyards be designed for mechanization.

Karissa discussed the new Grape Grower Foundation, in support of our agricultural workers – helping to solve their issues of affordable housing, childcare and education. She noted that Sonoma County's workforce is by and large not transient – 88 percent of our workers live in Sonoma County and 73 percent have their family members here. Assuming one worker per 10 acres, Sonoma County requires 6,000 full time employees and another 3-4,000 part-time workers during harvest.

Questions and Answers: Member John Bucher stated that he found the assessment process valuable, and is disappointed at editorials stating the program is merely "green-washing." Again, Karissa encouraged all grape growers in the Westside Area to do the assessment and audit to become Certified Sustainable – the process helps create a holistic business plan – it's like getting a PhD in management of your vineyard.

Motion to Adjourn: President Fumich requested a Motion and Second to Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Olney, 2016 WCA Secretary