Meeting Minutes: Spirit of Guemes Board Meeting

Date: July 9, 2026

Participants: Leslie Tysseling, Julie Pingree, David Wertheimer, Terri Gafney, Jonathan Prescott, Anne Casperson,

Absent: Donna McCord, Jo Anne Meyers-Ciecko

Summary

The Spirit of Guemes (SOG) Board met to address organizational developments, community event outcomes, and legal paperwork. The primary focus centered on evaluating the recent Patriotism-themed "Purple Conversations" event, updating the SOG website, and conducting a review of the draft bylaws for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. The high-level outcome of the meeting was an approval of the draft bylaws..

Key Discussion Points

○ Topic A: Review of June Minutes & AI Minute-Taking

The board opened with a brief review of the June meeting minutes. Jonathan Prescott led a discussion on utilizing Gemini/AI to streamline the transcription and minute-taking workflow.

- **Contributed by:** Jonathan Prescott

○ Topic B: Purple Conversations (Patriotism Event)

The board evaluated the execution and community reception of the recent "Purple Conversations" session regarding Patriotism, which took place on July 5, 2026. Logistical details regarding the distribution to Jen and Nat of event-related gift certificates were also clarified.

- **Contributed by:** SOG Board Members

○ Topic C: SOG Website Updates

Progress on the SOG website was reviewed. It was noted that prior meeting minutes are now live on the site. Additionally, updates regarding distinguishing SOG from GICC were discussed, ensuring the website remains accurate.

- **Contributed by:** Leslie Tysseling

○ Topic D: Report from GICC Council

A summary report was provided detailing updates from the June Guemes Island Community Church (GICC) Council meeting.

- **Contributed by:** GICC Council Members

○ Topic E: 501(c)(3) Attainment & Bylaws Review

Leslie Tysseling led a review of the draft SOG corporate bylaws. The board finalized and approved Bylaws for subsequent federal tax-exempt filing.

- **Contributed by:** SOG Board Members

Action Items & Owners

- **Upload Provided Photos to SOG Website** | Owner: Leslie Tysseling | Deadline: ASAP

- **Submit Articles of Incorporation / Next Steps for 501(c)(3)** | Owner: Leslie Tysseling | Deadline: Ongoing

- **Forward June Board Meeting transcript to Leslie** | Owner: Jonathan Prescott | Deadline: ASAP

- **Brainstorm new Board members to consider at the next meeting** | Owners: All Board members | Deadline: August SOG Board meeting

Decisions Made

- **Approval of June Minutes:** The minutes from the June 4, 2026 board meeting were officially reviewed and approved.
- **Approval of Bylaws:** The board finalized and approved the Bylaws.

Next Steps & Future Agenda

The following unresolved items were placed into the parking lot for subsequent board sessions:

- Establishment of an official SOG operational budget.
- Discussion on policies regarding speaker and event organizer compensation.
- Review of the "Wishing Tree" Seattle Times article provided by Terri Gafney.
- Exploration of "Cultural Appropriation" as a formal discussion topic, particularly concerning the SOG Center gallery space and broader community outreach.
- Evaluation of potential new board members at the next board meeting.