



Santa Barbara Vintners Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Time: April 21, 2026, 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Location: Rusack Vineyards Residence, 1825 Ballard Canyon Rd, Solvang, CA 93463

1. Call to Order: 10:03am

2. Roll Call:

Completed by Phil Carpenter

In Person: Pierre LaBarge, Steve Gerbec, Jason Djang, Kevin Gleason, Keith Saarloos, Mike Testa, AJ Fairbanks, Kristina Caruso, Andrew Murray, Karen Steinwachs

Absent: Brooke Christian, Denise Shurtleff, Chase Carhartt, Dan Glaeser, John Haan

3. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: 10:05am

- a. Public comment on closed session agenda items: None
- b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): 2 matters
- c. Reconvene to open session to report action (if any) in closed session: 11:22am

4. Announcements Regarding Santa Barbara Vintner's Business: No announcements

5. Reports From CEO, GM & Events Director

- a. CEO Report
 - a. Japan 2026 Trip
 - i. Joint trip with Santa Barbara County CEO & Supervisors
 - ii. President of Fess Parker joined trip at his own expense
 - iii. Establishing sister region status
 - iv. Joint promotional ventures and visits
 - v. Trip financed with SBV reserve funds

- b. Nominating Committee & Board Elections
 - i. Kristina Caruso Announcement: Kristina is moving out of the county and stepping down as Chair of Marketing Committee, effective after May 2026 Board Meeting
 - ii. Board size currently 15
 - iii. Pierre will appoint nominating committee as per bylaws
 - 1. Pursue executive committee and new Chair of Marketing Committee
- c. Annual Meeting – June 24th
 - i. Need location: Staff working on securing venue
- b. Events Director Report
 - a. Mission SB: May 3rd-6th
 - i. 30 buyers coming to SBC for educational seminars and tours
 - b. Vintners Festival: October 17, 2026
 - i. Tickets are live and sales active
- c. General Manager Report: None

6. Public Comment. Time reserved for the public to address the Board of Directors relative to matters of the entity's business not on the agenda. Comment time regarding specific agenda items will be available during consideration of the agenda items. (3 minutes per person, President has discretion to adjust as necessary).

-One public comment

7. Consent calendar. The following items can be approved by a single action of the Board. Items requiring additional discussion may be withdrawn from the listing and addressed in separate actions. If you wish to speak on a consent calendar item, please do so during the public comment period provided at the beginning of this item.

- a. Approval of the minutes for the November 2025 meeting
- b. Approval of the minutes for the December 2025 meeting
- c. Approval of the minutes of the January 2026 meeting
- d. Approval of the minutes of the February 2026 meeting

Public Comment: Request February minutes be updated with correct date and location

ACTION: Approve all minutes with updates to February minutes.

Motion: Kevin

Second: AJ

Vote: Unanimous approval

8. Discussion / Action Items. The Board will discuss and may take action on the following items.

a. **Finances** (Alison Laslett/Dan Glaeser)

i. Standard financial reports – Balance Sheet, Statement of Activity

ii. Draft Budget for 2026-2027

1. Followed Wine Preserve Management District Plan (MDP)
2. Projected District winery payments & Business/Grower membership dues included
3. Vintners Festival has separate budget
4. Event Director position, salary plus benefits, is shared with Foundation
5. Mission SB: Financed through participation fee & Non-BID funding

Public Comment: Two comments

ACTION: Approve current financials and draft budget.

Motion: Kevin

Second: AJ

Vote: Unanimous approval

b. **Resolution No. 26-01** – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Santa Barbara Vintners Establishing the Place of its Regular Meetings to the End of BID Fiscal Year, April 2026- March 2027.

Public Comment: one comment

ACTION: Approve Resolution 26-01 and establish regular meetings to take place at Crown Point Vineyards for the remainder of 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Motion: Kevin

Second: Kristina

Vote: Unanimous approval

c. **Formal Demand to Cure and Correct Brown Act Violations and Cease and Desist** (Jena Acos, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck)

i. Resolution No. 26-02 Resolution of the Board of Directors of Santa Barbara Vintners Responding to the Formal Demand of M. Allen with an Unconditional Commitment to Follow the Brown Act

Public comment: one comment

ACTION: Approve Resolution No. 26-02

Motion: Keith

Second: Kevin

Vote: Unanimous approval

- ii. Provide additional direction as desired: None

d. Committee Progress Reports

i. Marketing Committee (Kristina Caruso)

- 1. Budget for committee pending
- 2. Researching marketing and social media firms for next phase of advertising

Public comment: none

ACTION: Approve Marketing Committee update.

Motion: Keith

Second: AJ

Vote: Unanimous approval

e. Committee Structure and Brown Act Compliance

- i. The Board discussed committee structure and related Brown Act compliance considerations.
- ii. The Marketing Committee will remain a standing committee of the Board and will continue to operate as a Brown Act committee.
- iii. The Board voted to dissolve the following standing committees, with future working groups to be formed on an ad hoc basis with defined purposes and limited durations, as needed:
 - 1. Finance
 - 2. Board Transition
 - 3. Events
 - 4. Membership
 - 5. Advocacy

f. Consider submitting a letter of support to CAWG & Family Winemakers on AB1585 (American Wine bill)

- i. Support advocacy from CAWG for 100% American Wine
- ii. CA Wine Institute not in support
- iii. Rare these organizations do not line up politically

- iv. Due to Alison's strong relationship with CA Wine Institute, she feels this will not hurt our Regional Standing with them

Public comment: none

ACTION: Approve submitting a letter of support to CAWG & Family Winemakers on AB1585.

- 10. Motion: Keith
- 11. Second: Steve
- 12. Vote: Unanimous approval

g. Consider approval of revised 2025-2026 budget

- i. Presented at prior board meeting
- ii. Budget was revised due to decreased BID funding

Public comment: none

ACTION: Approve revised 2025-2026 budget.

Motion: AJ

Second: Jason

Vote: Unanimous approval

9. Other Business

- i. Karen provides update on Foundation events
 - i. Golf Tournament: May 18, 2026 @ Alisal Ranch Course
 - ii. Summer Soire: June 19, 2026 @ The Inn at Mattei's Tavern

10. Adjournment: 12:46pm