

## Entries in GICCA Minutes referring to the Schoolhouse Stage Project beginning in November 2011 through September 2021

Scroll to the bottom to view the most recent updates.

**Note: GICCA does not hold monthly meetings in June, July or August (Summer break) or December (Holiday break)**

Additional entries pulled from The Guemes Tide archives cover the period from August 2009 through June 2011 and can be found on the GICCA Schoolhouse Park Stage Timeline document on myguemes.org.

11/11

**Stage Project:** Mark Linnemann announced that some changes had been made to the School House Park Stage design and they are now ready for permitting. Bill Warmouth noted that the logs stored at the site need to be lifted up off of the moist ground. Mark will schedule a meeting for week after next.

02/12

**Stage Project:** Mike Gwost requested money to pay for a culvert pipe for the Schoolhouse Stage. Sharon said that he would need to provide an invoice to Norm. She also inquired about the progress of the project. Kathleen suggested that we ask Mark Linnemann to attend our next council meeting to update us on the project.

03/12

Mike Gwost announced that the Woodchopper's Ball, by all accounts was a success. The event was well attended and the audience included a large number of small children who enjoyed dancing as much as the adults. After paying for the band, there was approximately \$200 left which is being used for the School House Stage.

**Stage Project:** Mark Linnemann gave us an overview of the project and said that we have received approval for design, engineering etc. He reported that this has truly been a community effort. Kelly Bush, GICCA Trustee has agreed to be the liaison with the stage project, and Mark is sending her a full report with names of volunteers so that we may recognize each of them for their hard work. Bob Anderson volunteered to place a sign at the stage site to identify it and remind islanders of how their donations are being used.

04/12

**Stage Project:** Drawings have been re-submitted to the county. Volunteers will continue to be needed. Also of note, no more trees will need to be cleared from the building site.

09/12

**Stage Project:** Critical Area Plan has been approved and paid for. It was suggested by the audience that we need to have some sort of signage at the site so that islanders can keep abreast of funds raised as well as progress on the project.

10/12

**Stage Project:** Kelly received and reported the following update from Mark Linnemann. He just got the Permits last week and Adam Mimnaugh is willing to excavate the foundation as soon as folks who are skilled in prepping the foundation can help. He asked if anyone knows a contractor interested in helping us get up out of the ground. Now that the burn ban is off, the slash pile at the site can be burned.

Mark suggested a clean-up kick-off work party with a date to be set once he gets a list of volunteers together. If you or anyone else you know are interested in weed-whacking, raking, or any of the above listed chores, please contact Mark at 293-5040, or any board member. We need help! (When a work party date is set, the board will organize food/snacks for the workers.)

11/12

**Stage Project:** Norm spoke to the possibility of a Fall Appeal for funding for the stage. General discussion followed on costs of an appeal and needs for the fund. Since the costs to construct the stage are unknown yet, it

was discussed that it would be premature to launch a fund Drive until the costs are known. In addition, it was agreed there would not be enough to organize a Fund Drive before the end of the year. Bob Cummings felt the appeal could be launched in the spring, as we need to be prepared to establish the appeal platform. He suggested putting an announcement in the newsletter regarding the funding needs of the Community Center to encourage donations before the end of the year. The informational outreach would enable donors to benefit from a tax benefit for 2012. Emma Schroder questioned our funds/expenses and how much we have available for developing the stage and also how much we would ultimately need. Discussion followed.

Norm responded that this last year the general appeal brought in the \$21,000.

Sharon Schlittenhard mentioned that the two goals; A) General Fund, and B) Stage should be separated out. Tom Murphy questioned the income figures, which, on review, matched the figures from the Treasurer.

MOTION: Rob Schroder made a motion to not have a Fall Fund drive, seconded by Norm Prewitt. Discussion included comment from Bob Cummings to say that we should put information regarding the needs in the Tide as an article to spur future collection. Sharon Schlittenhard said we did not have enough information to start with this project. The motion passed with all in favor to not have a Fall Fund Drive.

01/13

**Stage Project:** Kelly has communicated with Mark and reported that permits are in-hand. Adam Mimnaugh has volunteered to start the foundation work. Julie has suggested that if a date is set, those of us who are more domestically oriented would be happy to provide refreshments.

02/13

Woodchoppers Ball: Mike Gwest announced that Saturday February 23rd is the 26th Annual Wood Choppers Ball. He calls the ball a grand "kick off" fundraiser for the schoolhouse stage. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and teens, and kids have free admission. There will be a potluck and an open mike from 6-8pm with the dance from 8.30 until midnight. Mike would like this information to be put on LineTime. Polecat, the musical group for the evening, will cost \$850.

**Stage Project:** Mike will be chopping approved trees tomorrow. He has donations from 20 businesses in town to benefit the function. "Great dance, great items to win, raffle and door prizes, six raffle tickets for \$5, a good time for all". The President questioned the method of acquiring and garnering funds at the Ball, the funds need to go through the Treasurer with a paper trail in case of audit. The band needs to be paid that night from the door funds. All else needs to be achieved through Norm Prewitt our Treasurer. The invoices from the posters will be reimbursed.

04/13

**Stage Project:** Kelly emailed an update from Mark Linnemann stating that work will most likely happen over several weekends in May and June. There are many more contractor or skilled volunteers required for completion. Anyone wanting to volunteer, please contact Mark Linnemann at the resort, 293- 6643. George Parks stopped by briefly to let the council know that he had some lumber that he would like to give to the Schoolhouse Stage project. He was thanked, and the council will see that the project volunteers will be told of his donation.

05/13

**Stage Project:** No new update except as noted by Julie, the stage does have a website; guemesislandstage.com. The hosting fee is \$5 per month which Sophie Dobra has been paying. The council will reimburse her for the monthly fee.

09/13

**Stage Project:** The project is developing with Kelly Bush as liaison with Mark Linnemann. The project needs rejuvenating. Four bids have been sent out, but there are currently no formal plans, and we should be showing progress to enable Community support. Michael Brown asked for update and gave well received input suggesting a group committee meeting to review the project schedule/costs. He stated he is enthusiastic about this goal and that we need input in the Guemes Tide and a Fundraiser thermometer so the Community can see financial goals

being met. Kelly Bush will work with Mark Linnemann and Michael Brown and move this forward. Julie will email the original Stage project Committee members for any input.

10/13

**Stage Project:** In Kelly's absence, Julie presented information sent via email from Mark Linnemann. Since Michael Brown is interested in spearheading the project, Mark has given him a quick overview of the project to date and as soon as Michael (who is traveling) returns to the island, they, along with Brett Kelley will meet to plan next steps. Challenges to date include getting bids on concrete work, the potential cost of concrete work and ways to cut projected costs.

11/13

**Stage Project:** Julie Pingree reported that Michael Brown would be attending the meeting to give current information. The Schoolhouse Stage plan of action costing had been done in 2011. Tom Murphy questioned what had been paid. Letty Montoya and Noel had received \$450. Mike Gwost is working on finishing the culvert and hopes to have it done and the keystone installed by November 27th (so the trail walkers can see this project in action). Michael Brown stated that he has been encouraging commitment and all is lining up. Sharon Schlittenhard queried the current expenses on the project and Mike Gwost and Norm Prewitt responded. Michael Brown took the floor and informed the group that he had met with Mark Linnemann and architect David Hall and several other people. Brian had received an estimate for the concrete paving (\$35,000) as this is considered a complex pour. We need 35 yards of concrete. There are fairly wide walls and a rounded facade, electric panel, and roofing to consider. Mike Gwost responded that we have a commitment for the underground electric and hoped for a spur off to the pavilion with a couple of outlets, to accommodate the kid's playhouse. Michael Brown discussed the electric panel in the facility and stated that he needs to hear back from the Board, he feels there is renewed interest and asked how much can the community support with fundraising? Jon Petrich suggested contacting Dan Tibbles in Anacortes for the concrete. Larry Nelson's name was also mentioned. Michael Brown thought it might be fun to have a "Name the Stage project" and run the project in the Guemes Tide. There was discussion of having plaques for those who had made donations to the project. Tom Murphy asked for total cost. Michael Brown said we need a project manager and that the project could cost \$60,000, this cost would be less if the facility was community built. The timeframe was discussed. Tom Murphy asked if there will be a discussion on the amount of money we will need. Julie hopes we can get some ideas out to the community, Mike Gwost is hoping for a completion date of July 5, 2013.

01/14

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown is traveling and unable to give a report.

02/14

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown had recently done a walk at the stage site, and wondered about repositioning it slightly. Mike Gwost arrived as Michael was talking and it was determined that the best solution was for the board to meet at the site on Saturday at 10:00am to discuss the plans further. (Per Julie – this is the result of Saturday's Meeting.) Mike Gwost with the help of Michael Brown and Todd Figenshow outlined the sight placement and plan/dream including landscaping. Todd will paint the outline of the Stage when the weather gets better and may oversee the concrete pouring. Mike G is still working with the donated logs part of the project. Adam Mimnaugh, Robert Olsen, Eugene Gwost, Harry Finks, Norm, Rob, Mike G, Michael Brown and a few others were present.

03/14

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown not able to attend. Julie P., Rob Schroder, and Norm Prewitt had met with Michael Gwost, Michael Brown and many others for details at the site and are confident with Todd Figenshow on board.

04/14

**Stage Project:** Todd Figenshow reported on the plans for the Stage and developments. He has talked to the engineer re the alterations that may need to be made. We should be moving forward soon. We get the estimate

for concrete and steel and should be on our way within two weeks. Mike Gwost delivered an update and understanding of where we are with the project. Emma Schroder asked for a sign with a sizeable image so people could appreciate what we are doing and encourage forthcoming donations. Julie feels more funds will come in once activity commences. The community support is growing well.

05/14

**Stage Project:** Todd Figenshow said we were underway for the plans for the stage. Adam Mimnaugh was on board to begin. Todd asked who pays for the ingredients i.e. concrete and was directed to Norm (treasurer) He needed funding for the footing for the concrete walls on which the stage will sit. Guemes Connects has made a donation of \$500 towards the Stage project. Julie responded by very much appreciating this donation by Guemes Connects. Emma Schroder then asked if Michael Brown has any fund raisers up and coming?

09/14

**Stage Project:** Julie Pingree (President) requested an update from Michael Brown on the stage. She expressed disappointment that the proposed plan for the stage is not moving forward more quickly. We had hoped to have the stage ready for July 4. Mike responded that he has pressed for action but this is a volunteer project and one cannot heckle volunteers, he presented the building plans. We will hopefully see the carving out of the sub foundation sometime in October. Adam Mimnaugh is doing this gratis for us. Ivan (engineer) suggested we have a three inch pad so we are on solid flat. Dirt will be placed on a slight grade so there is a sense of being embraced by the stage. Mike Gwost has already purchased some wood/linseed oil (pine tar) and Rich Petrich is ready to trench in electricity. Mike informed us that there are a lot of chiefs, and he himself is more of a spokesperson and less of a chief, he acknowledged this work should have been started in April. Situations were discovered that were unknown, but there is now traction. Michael Brown will be back with a report on Oct 7th. We need a photo shoot for that and need to request that Edith is available. We have raised almost \$11,000. Mike is thinking there could be a \$20,000 budget. Todd has mowed the area so the progress is visible. The Banner was up on July 4th. Tom Murphy asked when the ground would be broken and when will foundation be poured? Mike responded that it was not a bad time to pour in October. By Christmas we should see the base of the structure. Emma Schroder suggested that we ask for donations to the Stage at Christmas instead of a gift. She suggested fund raising activities? Hay ride, Band. We need dates for future goals. Mike offered to be the squeaky wheel. Julie gave appreciations for his work.

Tom Murphy, questioned re the funds. Michael Brown would like to see a monthly update on donations....we need to send thank you notes and keep him posted on those who have donated and received 'thank you's'.

10/14

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown reported that Adam Mimnaugh has dug some test holes to determine the depth for the foundation pour (which had to be delayed because of the ferry being out of service). He also stated that Rick Petrick will trench in conduit for the electrical service to the stage and at the same time, add conduit to the tennis courts for possible future service. Michael stated that he is planning to start ramping up the fundraising effort, and hopes to gain momentum as the project becomes more visible. The total estimated cost of the project is \$30,000 with nearly \$9,000 already raised.

11/14

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown reported that a ditch is being dug in order to put in extra lighting for the stage. Rich Petrich is doing this work. Michael said there had been some donations towards the electrical projects. Adam Mimnaugh and Gabe Bean were volunteering their time. Michael B. is covering their fuel expenses. He described a six-inch pad that will be poured/framed-in, establishing a base for the structure. Emma Schroeder asked for names of people who are helping. Julie discussed different forms of fundraising, and Michael B. suggested a formal fundraising campaign and challenge grant, with a chance for folks who have not made substantial donations this year to make a commitment for December. He mentioned that the permit for building expires on October 2, 2015, and has a "hoped for" goal for completion by July 4, 2014. He mentioned the labor force, and Kelly asked how we could gather volunteer workers. There will be work for volunteers such as the raking and making of a berm. Donations to a specific item such as the roof or lighting were seen as attractive to potential donors rather than donating to a general fund.

Norm Prewitt moved that GICCA indemnify the expenses of the stage project up to \$30,000. This was seconded by Rob Schroder with all in favor. Fundraising will then replace the GICCA finances. Fundraising possibilities were discussed, including names on a plaque for those individuals who pay for specific projects. (Board member Kathleen Phillips was absent from this meeting).

01/15

**Stage Project:** There have been two trucks of donated fill in addition to the donated gravel from the county. The curtain drain has been installed. The building sight needs to be graded to be readied for the concrete pour. Volunteers have been working many hours to get these things done. GICCA has paid Adam Mimnaugh and Roger of Snowy Mountain for fuel as they have donated their services.

Michael Brown has been working on the fundraising to pay for the Stage Project. He is putting together a Challenge Grant of \$15,000 donated by a few donors. This will be matched by the community. There was discussion as to "getting the word" out. Edith reminded us that the Tide will accept community inserts for the paper. There was discussion regarding a non-profit stock donation account so securities can be transferred to GICCA. There will be further investigation. When it is time to send donation request letter, we will hand address them. Michael requested names of potential donors be emailed to him. At some point it may be necessary to hire islanders to help with building of the Stage.

02/15

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown reported that gravel arrived & has been spread, Adam Mimnaugh "finished" by grading & compacting. The proctor test was done & the site passed. An account has been opened at Frontier Industries with Michael Brown and Todd Figenshow as signers. Rick hooked up temporary power for the tools. Fund raising is moving forward. It was suggested there be signage at the Stage site & the plans posted at the Hall. Bonita Smith is planning a fund raiser concert 8/22/15 or 8/29/15.

03/15

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown was not present. Mike Gwost reported work is moving forward. There will be a concrete pour soon. He has been working out "deals" with Concrete NW.

04/15

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown presented the project work flow plan at the meeting. The pour went very well with Concrete Nor'west thanks in part to all the workers. Michael Brown has scheduled "Bingo Therapy" as a benefit concert for 8/22/15. Mike Gwost reminded us the 6th anniversary of the birth of the Schoolhouse Stage Project is August 16. Mike G. gave an overview of the project. Michael Brown is working on a flow chart that will be posted at the hall.

05/15

**Stage Project:** Mike Gwost reported the concrete is still curing. When the slab is ready it will be sealed with an industrial sealant he and Shane are researching. Mike would like to extend the culvert which would take approximately eight culvert sections at \$90 each. Mike will make sure the trenches are filled in prior to the 6/6/15 Doug Island Run. He stated there would be significant progress by 7/4/15. Michael Brown reported the fund raising is on-going.

09/15

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown and Kathleen reviewing the project. The building permit expires 10/2/15. Michael spoke with Cynthia at the building permit office learning the permit can be extended. There was discussion regarding Mike Gwost purchasing materials without running it by Michael B. It was decided Mike should contact Michael prior to purchasing materials whenever possible. Mike got a "deal" on lumber which has been delivered to the building site. Mike stated there needs to be another cement pour, preservative applied, purchase of tarpaper, metal roofing and additional supplies. The preservative will be applied to the wood and stored in the pavilion. Mike will check with Sandy Warmouth to make sure it is available. Mike said there will be a "rebar bending party". Any questions should be directed to Mike Gwost or Michael Brown. Michael Brown thanked everyone for the generous donations toward the project.

Addendum to 9/15 minutes (By Kathleen Phillips) I met with Michael Brown to be updated on the stage. After our meeting, I called the county and talked to Cindy who said our permit number BP12-0306 expires on Oct. 5th. If the project can be complete in 6 months – there is a 6-month grace period. Otherwise, we need to pay a renewal fee of approx. \$60 which is 1/3rd of the original permit cost. Michael would like an update on how much money has been received and an assurance that thank you's are being written. I believe Julie is current on thank you's.

Also my understanding is that he (Michael Brown) is not always "in the loop" when purchases are made. Recently he was not aware of a large lumber purchase. I was surprised as I thought the board had agreed that all purchases would be signed off by Michael Brown. I know he is frustrated. If you put yourself in his shoes – he's asking for large donations from various individuals so he needs to know what has been purchased and where we stand financially with the project. I firmly believe that we owe him that courtesy.

Also from an accounting perspective, going forward it is important that we adhere to the practices that we as a board have agreed to.

Next up – the concrete forms & rebar need to be placed before the foundation wall can be poured. Michael Brown is hoping that the foundation wall and possibly the inner footings and what I'm calling the wing walls can also be poured before winter. There may be a setback because of the ferry haul-out but hopefully this step can be accomplished before winter sets in.

10/15

**Stage Project:** Mike Gwost reported he met with the building inspector. The building permit was extended for three years. He said the inspector approved of the work that has been done. Mike Gwost has purchased the preservative for the wood. When Emma asked Mike when we could expect the Stage to be done, he said "spring".

11/15

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown and Mike Gwost reported during the year the site prep has been done, the drainage system has been done, the site has been graded and fill added, and the cement pad has been poured. They reported better weather is needed to have another concrete pour, followed by the carpenter work beginning. The next big expense will be the concrete pour and the roofing which the proceeds from the Woodchopper's Ball will go toward the roofing.

**Stage Account balance:** \$14,688.98

01/16

**Stage Project:** Mike Gwost has reviewed the plans with Noel Montoya to determine the supplies needed to complete the project. Kathleen noted the permit extension was not posted on the county's site. There was discussion regarding the need to finish the Stage in a timely manner. There was a discussion as perhaps the Council should hire a project manager to make sure things get done. This is going to be researched. Mike Gwost was asked to put together a timeline to be review by the Trustees.

02/16

**Stage Project:** Kathleen stressed the need to have the Stage Project move forward. Kathleen spoke with the insurance broker who stated our policy would not cover injury of workers without a licensed contractor leading the project. Mike G, Rob, Kathleen met with Bill Chagnon, contractor. He has time available to oversee the next phase of the project. His estimated fee is approximately \$6,000 for labor to oversee the next two pours and \$6,000 for material for a total of approximately \$12,000. 70% of the needed lumber has been purchased. There was support for hiring Bill Chagnon. Marietta moved to hire Bill, seconded by Tom. Tom, Marietta, Sarah, Rob, and Julie approved the motion, Kathleen opposed. Kathleen asked Pat Harrigan to be Project Manager, he will consider it. There was much discussion regarding the present plans and the use of volunteers. It was suggested the fund raising will move forward once there is evidence of the project moving forward. We were reminded the Council has committed \$30,000 toward the project which will be replaced by fund raising.

03/16

**Stage Project:** Kathleen stated she has been hearing frustration in regard to the progress of the Stage Project. Tom explained after reviewing the plans with the engineer, Ivan Kaliban, ADA access needs to be added to the plans. They discussed other changes that would help move the project forward and perhaps save money. Under review is opening the walls to allow electricity being added. There was much discussion regarding proposed changes to the original plans. There was discussion as to whether insurance would cover volunteers working on the project. Many guests took part in the discussion. It was suggested we have a volunteer coordinator.

04/16

**Stage Project:** Lynne discussed the expense and liability of the Project. When the Project was accepted by GICCA the estimated cost was \$13,000. The recent concrete pour was over \$6,000. The original estimate has been spent. She thanked everyone for their continuing donations. The Council has consulted an attorney and an insurance agent regarding the use of volunteers on the Project. There needs to be fencing, signage, protected equipment and supervision of volunteers. The Project is an "attractive nuisance" and needs to be fenced. Tom Deach suggested a 6' fence be installed. Etta moved to get the fencing installed ASAP. Tom 2nd the motion. The motion passed by the council. Mike Gwost suggested many people may have fencing "lying around" that could be used. He will follow-up. Etta is working on the signage. Dan Burnett suggested there could be waivers for the volunteers could sign.

Mike Gwost presented a petition signed by Islanders voicing their concern that the original plans be changed. Lynne explained that is not what the Council is proposing. Mike G is the spokesman for the "Stage Committee." Lonny Alison suggested we should be building bridges to make all work together. That is what the Island is. Sarah volunteered to post on linetime.org the need of volunteers as she is given that information by Bill Warmouth. Norm Prewitt explained previous indemnifying of \$30,000 has been met. The money has been spent. There was discussion of re-instating the indemnity. This was tabled.

05/16

**Stage Project:** Michael Brown was not present. Sarah Sibley presented Tom Deach's budgetary estimate for completion of the Stage. Bill Warmouth and Mike Gwost said they have been working with someone to "do a spread sheet" of the expenses. According to GICCA the year to date expense is \$60,763.17. Bill reported the Stage Committee is working with some people for estimates. It was suggested the committee and Tom be in communication so there is not a duplication of efforts. Bill has been contacting Sarah when there are volunteers or 'stuff' needed. Sarah posts it on LineTime. Bill Clark suggested "phase funding" as right now things are stalled because of the need of funding. There was discussion of Tom's forecasting of costs. Emma Schroder and Phyllis Woolworth will work on signage. It was agreed there needs to be a waiver signed by the volunteers. The process will be worked on. There was discussion regarding Mike's idea of a Rebel Ruckus around 7/4/16. Bill has had a steel flag pole made in 1959 donated to the Stage.

07/16

**Stage Project:** There was discussion regarding accept Michael Browns \$8,000 loan. It was pointed out that the attendees of the 7/12/16 "State of the Stage" meeting gave an advisory vote to accept the loan. Rob moved to accept the loan with the agreement of repaying, Lynne 2nd. All of the Board agreed to accept the loan to cover the next phase of the project. Bob Anderson and others suggested having the work progress will encourage others to volunteer and donate. Bret Kelley volunteered to work with Michael Brown to look for additional grants in addition to the Anacortes Parks Grant to help fund the Stage Project. There was discussion regarding the accounting of funds spent on the Stage Project. Etta has made an accounting available to those that requested them. Bill Chagnon will be supervisor of the next phase. Bob Anderson volunteered to work with other volunteers to layout for later landscaping. Michael Brown and Todd Figenshow suggested Jack Sparrow be approached and hired to be Project manager for the construction following the concrete work. The Board voted to hire Jack Sparrow with Tom Deach as liaison. Sarah Sibley will continue to work with Bill Warmouth to get the word out when volunteers are needed. The estimated completion cost is \$50,000. Kathleen will contact Bill and Jack. There was discussion of clarification of suspension of GICCA's indemnification of stage project of expenses up to \$30,000. Norm stated the indemnification was as guarantee that funds would be available. Sarah moved to confirm the indemnification has been fulfilled. The Board agreed.

09/16

**Stage Project:** Tom reported gravel is being put in place. Rob will work with Michael Grinnell on completing the concrete walkways. Michael Brown asked what the next phase will be. Tom is putting together a time line for the remaining construction. GICCA is not hiring Bill Chagnon to oversee this work. Mike Gwost was not present at the meeting. No target date is available at this time. It was suggested the progress sign at the site be updated.

10/16

Mike Gwost and Michael Brown were not at the meeting. Rob reported Michael Grinnell has been working on the sidewalks. Tom Deach met with Mike Gwost and Todd Figenshow and they are putting together a Timeline for continued construction of the Project.

1/17

**Stage Project:** A Wine Tasting Fundraiser is scheduled for February 11, 2017 to benefit the Stage.

2/17

A motion was made by to repay the \$8000 loan made by Michael Brown for completion of the concrete work for the stage. It was moved by Sukki Herman and seconded by Deb Strathman. The motion passed unanimously. This will leave us with approx \$8K in our Stage Project Fund.

**Stage Project:** Rob Schroder reports that the sidewalk ramps were poured on Feb 1, 2017. This was the last step in the work that Michael Brown's loan was targeted for. Mike Gwost brought in wood to show source of 12x18 boards that will be used for framing. Mike Gwost reported that he has a chainsaw mill lined up for week of Feb 20th. We will follow up on the status of milling at the next GICCA meeting. Next Step is to make beams. Rob has spoken to the county about inspection process for next steps. Engineering department at Skagit will be ready for inspection when framework is completed. Rob will be absent for month. He will leave a timeline for work to happen. Rob will talk to Mike Gwost regarding wood processing post-meeting.

Mike Gwost continued his presentation of wood that would be used for the stage framework. He has Eagle Rock Wooden Boat Repair scheduled to volunteer to mill the wood during the week of Feb 20th. A motion was made to move forward with the Schoolhouse Stage Project under the management of Rob Schroder and that no work is authorized to be done unless it goes through Rob. The motion was made by Sukki Herman and seconded by Loalynda Bird. The motion passed unanimously.

**Stage Account balance:** \$15,389.51.

3/17

**Stage Project:** Sukki Herman (President) asked if Mike Gwost was able to get the lumber milled. Bill Clark reported that he has not. Mike has been delayed due to his truck. When it is repaired, he will take his saw to Yaddi Young's property where the log is located, to be milled. No progress to date. Sukki asked again for names of the artists who donated to the Valentine's Day dance so we could send "Thank You" notes. Mike Gwost had previously stated he would send this list to Sarah Sibley last month, but has not. Sukki reported that Michael Grinnell started the expansion grooves/control joints, but didn't finished. It was shared that the concrete may crack if it's not completed soon after the concrete is poured and before the weather turns warm and dry. Marietta Harrigan asked if this was work that Rob approved before his month-long absence? Barb Ohms contacted Rob, and Rob did give approval for this work to happen. Concern was expressed about protecting our substantial investment in the concrete and that typically the control joints are done sooner after a pour. Pat Harrigan stated that as the weather warms, cracking is imminent. Julie Pingree asked how we would get this done with the ferry out? The tools necessary are already on site. Scott Parker is interested in doing the work. Sarah Sibley will contact him, and get a confirmed date. If we can't get a confirmed date from Scott, we'll move forward with a contractor. A motion was made to finish the control joints within 30 days by contacting Scott Parker to commit within the week or secondarily, hire a contractor to finish. The motion was made by Barb Ohms and seconded by Loalynda Bird. The vote was unanimously passed. Mike Beeler volunteered to help with the effort.

Sukki Herman reported that Michael Brown was issued a check in the amount of \$8000. It's been reflected in the current balance for the Stage Project. She extended the entire Board's appreciation to Michael Brown, who was not in attendance.

**Stage account balance:** \$8,785.23.

4/17

**Stage Project:** Sukki (President) provided a "Stage Project Update" handout to attendees including the breakdown of the remaining work to be done on the stage into Phase I and Phase II as well as references to relevant sections of the Bylaws regarding costs exceeding \$10,000 and project ownership. The goal of breaking the project into Phases and assigning Rob Schroeder as Project Manager is to move stage progress forward and to be able to deliver the stage to the many donors who have every right to expect a timely completion so the community can begin to enjoy this new asset. Discussion ensued regarding volunteer engagement. Mike Gwost expressed that the Board was not including the "stage committee" and volunteers who designed the stage in discussions, plans, stage completion activities, and expenditures. Barb Ohms stated that the original estimate for the cost of the stage in 2010 was \$13,000 and we have far exceeded this amount already and the stage is still not complete. Sukki Herman stated that stage monies are kept in a separate "Stage" account and are spent at the behest of volunteers once approved by the Board; so the statement that the Board was not supporting the volunteers or including them in stage activities was not accurate. Kathleen Phillips reminded other attendees that it is important that purchases be carefully controlled by the Board, per the Bylaws or we could lose our 501(c)3 status. Sukki stated that the Board was not aware of any formal, active "stage committee". In fact, no documentation can be found about the formation of a "stage committee." The current Board has asked this "committee" to come forth and no one has. Norm Pruitt stated that there was an original group of volunteers who decided to work together on the stage and the then-Board required that this group be organized as a committee. Mark Linnemann was the original Project Manager, per Julie Pingree. Several names were mentioned as belonging to this original committee including, Mike Gwost, Norm Pruitt, Mark Linnemann, Jerry Felix, Bill Warmouth, Harry Finks, Robert Olson - however, there was some disagreement on who actually comprised this committee. Julie Pingree moved that the previous "stage committee" be disbanded and that Rob Schroder (Project Manager) organize the volunteers to get the stage completed. Bea Cassetta amended the motion to include that anyone volunteering to work on the stage must sign a waiver, which includes implied acceptance of Rob as the Project Manager. Loalynda Bird seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Don Bird stated that there are a lot of emotions involved with the stage because of the amount of time, effort, blood, sweat, etc. The Board is just trying to get the stage completed; not trying to devalue the volunteers. The best way to get the stage done is to get the volunteers organized under Rob and everyone on the same page. Rob will be the sole point person to the volunteers. Rob Schroder responded to Bill Clark that Phase I will still be done, mostly, by volunteers. Sukki stated that volunteers will also be engaged on Phase II, depending on insurance liability criteria. Per Barb, volunteers must sign a liability waiver and be willing to take direction from Rob since the Board owns the stage property and, hence, the stage project. Sukki reported that a generous island donor has come forward to pay for the roof - with the condition that it be done by a licensed roofing contractor approved by the donor. The Board will be getting bids for this work. Mike Gwost reminded the Board that materials have already been purchased for the roof. Mike Beelner stated that there needs to be an inventory taken of materials on the stage property, including any roofing material. This will help us get an accurate estimate from a roofing contractor. Rob reported that he and Mike Gwost are harvesting timber from Yadi Young's property for part of the floor. Fasteners still need to be made (cost TBD). Mike has a wood finishing product that will be used. They have started milling the log for the main beam for the floor. There is an issue with the sawmill at the moment, Once the beam is completed and in place, the flooring process will pick up. Rob took the stage plans to an architect to get an outside opinion about ways to simplify the design and reduce costs. We will work with a professional sound system design volunteer to ensure a quality sound plan. Michael Brown asked Rob for an estimated completion date for Phase 1. Rob's best estimate was "the end of this summer." Norm Pruitt thanked Rob for his willingness to take the lead on the stage project. Norm asked for detailed listing of stage inflows/outflows. He has been working with Marietta. Discussion ensued. Audience asked that we move on with the agenda. Barb asked Norm to meet with she and Sukki after the meeting.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8,785.23

5/17

Barb Ohms (President) asked for anyone who needed to be recognized for volunteerism to be made known at future meetings so that we could re-start this effort and add it to our agenda.

**Stage Project:** Rob Schroder gave an update. The project is moving in a positive direction. The next step is putting preservative on the wood that will be creating the stage floor and beams underneath the stage floor. He is optimistic that the process will move quicker given the improved weather. He explained that the hoop house that was erected at the site is to protect the treated wood from weather.

**Stage account balance:** \$8,077.59

9/17

**Monthly Recognitions and appreciations:** Barb Ohms (President) recognized the following islanders for their tireless hard work and volunteerism. Stage volunteers: Todd Figgenshow, Mike Grennell, Mike Gwost, Michael Thamert, Scott Parker, Andrew Larson.

**Stage Project:** Rob Schroder reported the beam and joists are in place. The County signed off on work that has been done so far. Soon to start on putting floor down. Jep will be talking to electrician on moving the electricity. Todd Figgenshow proposed a reorganized official Schoolhouse Stage volunteer sub-committee that will report to GICCA. The Subcommittee will make decisions together as a group, deal with issues that come up and how to finish project. Barb proposed getting key players together to understand each other's expectations in order to move forward, also to discuss structure, guidelines, how to deal with conflict. She emphasized that we want the purpose of the new committee to be free of controversy. Rob will continue to be project manager. Mark Ohms asked about backfill for stage. Todd replied that Phil Burton has a dump truck, and many islanders have large fill dirt piles Mark also asked about stockpiling dirt. Todd answered that we would probably have a hard time getting enough material to stockpile. It will be utilized as fast as it comes in. Barb reminded attendees about phases of the project: Deck, grading, electrical is part of Phase 1. All volunteers working on the stage that were in attendance agreed that we hope Phase 1 will be done before the rain starts. Appeal letter has gone out, so there is anticipation of more funds coming in. Based on funds received, committee will look for what part of Phase 2 can be accomplished. Todd added to this statement that there is a lot that can be done during winter at little to no cost, with materials already on site. Barb & Todd agreed to meet and devise a plan for work going forward this winter. Board will approve plan before we move to the next step.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8352.11

10/17

**Monthly Recognitions and appreciations:** Barb Ohms (President) recognized the following individuals for their work on the Stage Project: Todd Figgenshow, Jep Burdock, Rob, Bill Clark, Mike Gwost, Andrew Larson, Mike Grennell, Scott Parker, and Isaac Gladish for volunteering in the past month at the Schoolhouse Stage.

**Stage Project:** Rob Schroder updated those in attendance and the Board on the progress. The initial first courses of the deck have been completed. The next step is moving the electrical panel and constructing the drum wall to support it. Barb thanked Rob for brainstorming the procedure for fastening the deck boards and plugging the holes.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8,363.20

11/17

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Stage volunteers

**Stage Project:** Rob Schroder reported on the progress of work on the Schoolhouse Stage project. The first few feet of the floor deck are completed. The posts for the drum wall that will hold the electrical panel need to be installed. The electrician will then move the electrical service to its permanent position. The deck can then be completed. Some fill dirt has been moved to the site in preparation for grading. More fill dirt is needed.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8,297.49

1/18

**Stage Project:** Rob reported that work is underway to prepare for the electrical panel installation.

**Stage Account balance:** \$11,632.29

2/18

**Stage Project:** Carol Pellett asked if we have thought about hiring someone to finish the stage. Concerned about those who have donated money and want to see the stage finished so it can be used!!! Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of this option. Need to get momentum going on the stage again. Rob will contact Jep to discuss timing of next steps.

**Stage Account balance:** \$11,632.29

3/18

**Stage Project:** Once again, a suggestion was raised to hire someone to finish the stage so that the community can use the facility that they have donated money for over the course of many years. The Board would like to finish Phase I using island volunteers. Phase II will need firm bids and a budget before getting started. See Project Phasing document on website under the stage project. Discussion about a work party at the stage (uprights for drum wall, move electrical panel, etc), weather permitting. Barb or Rob will contact Todd Figgenshow and/or Jep Burdock to get organized. Islanders have commented on the haphazard array of large logs spread around the stage site. This makes the site look sloppy and uncared for. Holly will ask Kevin to see if they can use their tractor to move these logs to the side and out of the way.

**Stage Account balance:** \$11,634.13

4/18

**Stage Project:** Discussion about the scattered logs around stage that are blocking further work and making the area appear "sloppy." Rob said he will put the forks on his tractor and move the logs the coming weekend.

**Stage Account balance:** \$11,635.09

5/18

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Bill Clark for his help at the stage.

**Stage Project:** Barb (President, reported for Rob) Uprights for the drum wall are in place. Can now lay 3 more rows of decking. Rest of decking can be laid after electrical box is moved. Need to get more fill dirt, get rid of hoop-houses, and do grading to complete Phase 1.

**Stage Account balance:** \$11,558.04

9/18

**Stage Project:** Rob reported it is necessary to have an electrical plan for the stage. Some progress has been made on the stage but, not as much as was expected. A motion was made by Penny Hewitt to hire someone to finish Phase 1 of the project. The motion was seconded by Loalynda. All but one person present voted and the motion was approved.

**Stage Account balance:** \$11,558.04

10/18

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Bill Clark and Mike Gwost for work on the stage drum wall.

**Stage Project:** Rob reported that we need fill dirt for the stage.

**Stage Account balance:** \$10,957.44

11/18

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Bill Clark, Mike Gwost, and Mark Ohms for some continuing work on the Stage project. Thanks to the mystery volunteer who restored the covers on the hoop houses at the stage (after the wind storm).

**Stage Project:** Barb and Rob reported that the drum wall is in place and the electrical panel has been moved to the drum wall. Additional boards have been laid on the deck. Only 1 response from request on LineTime for dirt donations. Ian Woofenden has dirt near Clark Point but could not find a dump truck to move it. Need to measure and calculate how many yards of dirt we will need. Need to get more fill dirt, add railing around stage deck, get rid of hoop-houses, and do grading to complete Phase 1. Carol Pellet asked about effort to find a contractor to

complete the work. Rob reported that he made a few calls to contractors in Anacortes, but no one was interested (project too small, island volunteer concerns, etc). May have to look beyond Anacortes.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8,089.66

1/19

**Stage Project:** As a follow up to the motion that was approved at the Sept GICCA Meeting, Liz has been helping Rob contact local contractors to assist in the completion of Phase I of the project. This would include finishing the deck and designing and building a railing around the deck. Liz reports that she contacted 11 contractors. Only 2 returned her calls. One, Bigfoot Builders, will be coming to Guemes on Jan 22 to look at the job and possibly give us a bid.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8,091

2/19

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Bill Clark and Mike Gwost - Kudos for getting work done on the stage before the snow buried everything.

**Stage Project:** Deck work was done. Railing vs. fill dirt was discussed. No matter what, according to code there needs to be railings on the handicap ramps. Barb and Liz are heading to Orcas to talk with the people who built the bandstand to find out how they manage it.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8092.04

3/19

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Mike Gwost, Jorge and Bill Clark for working on the stage deck.

**Stage Project:** Deck on stage is nearly done. Permit issue – building permit expired in October 2018– we have no more extensions. We have to apply for a new one. Rob and Barb will get together to start the process. Concern is that the original permit said the cost was \$14,000. We have to have a bid from a contractor for the application. Cameron at Bigfoot is working on a bid. Annie Matsumoto-Grah, an Associate Planner with the Skagit County Planning Department said we will need to apply for a special use permit to use the venue. It's a onetime deal, involves a pre-development meeting, and will cost \$3000 or so. We will have to sit down and try to anticipate what all the stage might be used for. Those activities need to be part of the permit because any large event will likely impact the park. How will it affect neighborhood, parking, sanitation, etc. Building permit will take 2-3 months. We could maybe do the grading before that comes in. The site should not be used until it passes final inspection. There isn't any existing signage available stating this so Barb got info from County on what to put on signs with RCW's. Barb will make some and will put them on the fence. Any advertised event would require the special use permit. Small family get togethers would be ok. A lot of legal stuff needs to happen before we can use the Stage. Is there a way to do the permitting process in two phases? Can we get a temporary occupancy permit once phase 1 is done? Barb didn't get a good answer and will get clarification. Barb and Liz are still planning on going to Orcas to inquire on how they run their bandstand. As soon as the stage deck is done, Barb would like help with clean up so the site is ready for fill dirt. We got a fill dirt bid from Snowy Mountain– worst case scenario – 160 tons of 3 inch minus base rock at \$4600 plus equipment to grade it \$1085. If we can get dirt on the island it would be around \$2302 for dirt plus the \$1085 for equipment and grading - \$3387. Loalynda made a motion to accept the bid from Snowy Mt for \$3387, Carol Deach seconded. The motion was approved.

**Stage Account balance:** \$8092.04

4/19

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Mike Gwost, Jorge and Bill Clark for laying a few more boards on the Stage deck

**Stage Project:** We had a great clean up. We have a new person who is going to take over project management. He will come to the May 16th meeting to talk about what his plans are. He recommends putting up a real construction fence. Barb is exploring options for that. Rob and Barb will be going to the county soon to get the new building permit. We will need to change our insurance a bit because of the stage to cover building materials, etc. The insurance folks will talk to their underwriter. Once the project is finished, we'll need to change the policy

again. We haven't heard a word from Bigfoot Builders, despite many calls, texts, etc. We might have our first load of dirt next week – it's been rather wet.

**Stage Account balance – \$8877.04**

5/19

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Mike Gwost and Jorge for getting the last deck board placed. Julie Pingree, Deb Strathman, Liz Hartley, Rob & Emma Schroder, Carol Deach, Libby Boucher, Max Boucher and Barb Ohms for the 2 big clean ups at the stage site and taking down the 2 hoop houses. Michael and Lauren Farley for donating \$485 for our new building permit.

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie was introduced as the new project manager (PM). At this point he took over the meeting to discuss his visions for the project. It is his goal to get the community back and invested in the project again. He thanked Mike Gwost for all the work he's done thus far and wants to continue with his support. It's important that this project be a community effort and that there's no individualism. It is required that any person who volunteers at the stage site sign the updated 2019 Volunteer Waiver Form. The new form now lists Rick Norrie as the PM. A motion was passed at a 2016 meeting allowing for the erection of more secure fencing. Since the stage area is a construction site it is a liability and it is our responsibility to protect people and their investments (tools/supplies). We have rented a 6-foot-high construction fence that will have a 400-foot perimeter. It will be erected this weekend. An anonymous donor has paid for the rental. We have an offer of a donation to pay for the roof that expires at the end of the year. It is Rick's hope that the stage can be completed by then and we don't lose that donation offer. Mike Gwost informed the body that he has a \$4300 quote from ABR, who he said are 2 of the best roofers on the island and have committed to doing the roof. In addition, it would be necessary to purchase sheets of plywood. Mike Gwost indicated that he had worked out a deal for cheaper boards (\$16.25 per board) with Frontier in Anacortes. It was brought up that we have to respect the donors if they're paying for the roof. Many were not comfortable with a donor making a unilateral decision regarding a part of the stage, however. Mike Gwost stated that our last building permit expired in October of 2018 and that we had been working without one since then. Barb Ohms explained that we had gotten a 6-month grace period that expired in April. Mike Gwost presented a large, laminated copy of a new permit that he had secured on behalf of the organization. While it is appreciated that Mike went out of his way to do this for GICCA, he was not authorized to sign on behalf of GICCA. Barb Ohms was able to have the Mike Gwost permit voided and secure one with her signature as the Authorizing Agent. Rick will start gathering a list of islanders and their skills. It is the viewpoint of many that, as a matter of island pride, they don't want outside contractors touching the project, so this list will help to avoid having to turn to off-island professionals. If it ends up that an off-island contractor is necessary, an oversight committee needs to make sure it's done to our standards. A truck, on which to load the logs to be taken to the mill, had been at the construction site, but was ordered to be removed. The truck was not licensed and therefore illegal to be on the road so will not be used for this project. Rick Norrie stated that if anybody shows up at the stage site under the influence of drugs or alcohol they will be asked to leave immediately. No drinking or drug use will be permitted on the site as well. Both scenarios are a liability and will not be tolerated. Rick Norrie does not have a final budget for the project. He will take inventory of the supplies we already have and come up with one. Mike Gwost said we have all deciduous material in hand. We have the roofing quote from ABR. All we need in addition to that are the plywood boards, bolts, and brackets. Things needed to complete the project include, but are not limited to, the construction fencing, fill dirt, railings, and the roof. The discussion turned to nuts and bolts of how the stage project would progress and it was brought up that the meeting should be adjourned as the discussion was better suited to smaller conversations, not the forum of a board meeting. Agreement was voiced and the meeting adjourned.

**Stage Account balance – \$8877.00**

9/19

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Mike Gwost, Dan Gwost, Aaron Peterson, Dan Burnett, & Isacc Gladish for finishing the last of the deck boards. Rick Norrie, Tom Fouts, John Strathman & Jep Burdock for the log finishing, brackets and installing the 6 vertical logs. Tim Alaniz for consulting with Stevens Electric then installing the ground rod at the Stage. Rick Norrie for finishing it with concrete. Don Bird for consulting on the sound board

platform and necessary cables for the Stage. Addition made after meeting: Jerry Frelix for his work as liaison between the Board and community members who are in opposition to our Stage Project decisions.

**Stage Project:** Handouts of the Stage Project Timeline and Stage Expenses to Date were passed out. Stage Project Costs to Date are Foundation \$37,022; Deck \$9,840; Site Prep \$8,545; Electrical \$6,969; Roof \$4,885; Plans/Permits \$3,263; Uprights \$1,365. With an overall Total to Date of \$71,889. There is a little less than \$6000 left in the stage project account. We are trying hard to finish the stage without going over that amount.

Rick Norrie, stage Project Manager (PM), began his report with his background including 14 years in the military and 28 years as an Island County Sheriff. During his years with Island County, he became a drug recognition expert giving him a good understanding of impairment. He also held a supervisory position which required him to run programs and work with grants. His father-in-law was a woodworker and taught him a lot over the years. He's passionate about family and the community. He serves with our volunteer fire department and also has a business as a private investigator. He volunteered as stage PM after speaking with Barb Ohms when she called with a law enforcement question. At his first meeting as PM in May, Rick felt a good place to start was to stand back, listen, observe, and engage. It was apparent that there is a divide on the island and he's trying to marry the two sides. He had several meetings with those who've been involved. He's making an effort to minimize the costs, which were out of control, by using the materials that were on site. This is proving difficult since a lot of the wood has rotted. It was made clear that, for liability reasons, impairment of any sort will not be tolerated at the stage site. Rick Norrie made the decision that Mike Gwost was dismissed for several reasons in addition to worksite impairment. This decision has met with resistance. He's been told that people won't volunteer if Mike Gwost is not welcomed back and he stated that Mike's return can never happen. Controversy existed with the sheer wall construction. After weeks, the wood for the wall wasn't milled so a cost-cutting alternative will be implemented. The lumber is on site and ready to be used. In addition to a previous, private apology, Rick Norrie made a public apology to Mike Gwost for the way two situations with him were handled. Rick stated that being the project manager of the stage is challenging. He would like to make everyone happy, but he can't. An alternative conventional wall design has been approved by a structural engineer. The back log was rotted so that will have to be changed. The big log for the front also has decay but they're trying to salvage it. They're going to maintain the integrity of the design unless they discover that it's too rotted. They do have a back-up plan with another log if necessary. Rick emphasized that everyone is welcome to come and help as long as they're not impaired and they don't ask if Mike can return. Rick thanked people for donations and was met with applause when he stated that the goal is to complete the stage in a reasonable amount of time. The floor was opened to questions and comments: Michael Grennell was under the impression that he was not allowed on the property. Rick clarified that he is welcome. The date the slab was poured was brought into question. Barb will double check and verify the actual date and will reflect that on the timeline. \*Secretary note: Barb confirmed that the May 2015 cover story of Guemes Tide confirms the April 2015 pour date.

Comments from the floor:

- Appreciation was voiced for Rick Norrie and the board moving ahead.
- We haven't had a common unity here for a while and Jerry Frelix feels sorry and responsible for this debacle. He showed off his stage "Build it and we will come" t-shirt.
- Someone yelled from the back that Mike isn't the problem – we are all to blame because we can't work - together. We need to come together.
- Willie McWatters stated that people have to have second chances – people who show effort and heart. Mike Gwost dedicated so much to this inebriated or not. He's been there. Can't believe he's not being given a second chance. (Project manager note – he has been given multiple chances.)
- If we really want to build this thing, we need to make decisions as a community. (President's note - community votes are considered advisory. Elected officials make the final decision with the community vote weighing in heavily.) (Project manager note – we can't have community votes on every detail of the project – no decision would ever be made, and the project would stall.)
- Rick Norrie emphasized that those who are holding back need to show up and participate. Be there and make a difference! The only way we're going to get it done is together!

Note from President: To protect us from liability, our insurance required that a fence be erected around the stage project site. That happened very shortly after Rick was appointed as project manager. There are approximately 5 regular volunteers working on the stage project. Their backgrounds include timber frame builder, heavy equipment operator, woodworker, and electrician.

**Stage Account balance:** \$5,924.56

10/19

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Rick Norrie, Tom Fouts, John Strathman, Jep Burdock for work on the Stage. Adam Mimnaugh for loan of equipment. Bob Porter, Jim Lemiex and Larry Pike for advice and equipment loan on the Stage Project. Sandy McKean for donating logs. Tom Deach for clean up at the stage site

**Stage Project:** A question was asked regarding coverage of volunteers at the stage site. They are required to sign a waiver as insurance doesn't cover them. Once the stage is complete, we will have to obtain a one-time special use permit from the County. This will require a pre-development meeting and an outline of every event that could possibly happen at the stage will have to be developed. Barb noted that sanitation will come into play with the stage special use permit and we're open to looking into nicer toilets. We'd likely have to work with the county on that.

Rick Norrie (Project Manager) reported that since the last meeting replacement logs for the purlins were picked up in Conway. We're hoping they will be delivered next week or the week after. They're 33 feet long and there are 7 of them. They are still rough so bark will have to be removed. Adam Minmaugh is saving us considerable money by loaning us his boom truck to lift the beams. Sandy McKean donated some logs. Once the back beam is in place conventional walls will be constructed for the wing walls. This will be cheaper, quicker, can hide the wires, and will look nicer. Rick extended thanks "to the wives who tolerate us being gone." Excess, unusable wood will be donated to the Woodchoppers Ball.

**Stage Account balance:** \$6119.12

11/19

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Rick Norrie for his leadership as the Project Manager on the Stage Project and bringing community members back to the project. Tom Fouts and John Strathman – tireless workers. Jep Burdock – timberframe building expertise. Jerry Bosworth – a licensed electrician helping with electrical work. Barb Ohms and Libby Boucher for peeling logs. The Mayor of Darrington for donating a replacement beam for the back main roof beam.

**Stage Project:** Pictures of the stage progress (see [myguemes.org/stage](http://myguemes.org/stage) updates) speak volumes. The average age of the men working on a consistent basis is approximately 70! They move slow but good banter and laughs are aplenty! Barb Ohms and Libby Boucher had great fun peeling logs. Rick stated that he applauds everyone who comes down to help. The lifting of the main beam meant so much to the community. We were initially concerned because of the damage and rot but were able to use the showcase log. Rick calls Jep Burdock "The Wizard." With his expertise the front beam is up. Darrington's mayor's mother donated the timber for the back beam. The outside verticals are next, then the purlins. Labor and Industries visited the site and educated the team. Rick would like to thank whoever called L&I (Micheal Grennell) because it was a safety issue and we want to be safe. It cost \$1500 to get a certified truck and operator. He got it done and nobody got hurt. The stage won't be done by the end of the year, but we're coming along very well. Lots of community members came to watch and cheer on the lifting of the main beam. Community drives us, so THANK YOU! Somebody asked if we got a citation from L&I – no, we did not. An inspection was done, the truck was running but not lifting at the time. We stopped work and removed the boom truck. L&I gave a general violation, which we have to post for 3 days at the stage. It was an administrative violation, not a safety violation. John Strathman mentioned the electrical work that has been done. Jerry Bosworth is volunteering to help with these needs. Scott Parker asked about the voltage. Rick said we plan to use LED fixtures.

**Stage Account balance:** \$4057.02

1/20

The January GICCA Monthly Business Meeting was cancelled due to extreme weather, snow storm, and dangerous driving conditions.

2/20

**Stage Project:** Work on the project is currently on hold because of the weather. We will start up again on April 1st. Some highlights of the stage update: We need to put up the purlins, then the roof. We need to get creative in regards to a boom truck since it may cost \$15,000-\$20,000 to hire a certified crane to complete the work. We

need to use a different wood treatment product for the stage as opposed to the Swedish Pine Tar that was used on the Pavilion. The treated roof in the Pavilion is showing mold staining. We may need to hire more skilled labor for some of the upcoming tasks. Rick will dedicate 100% of his time to the stage once it's going again. We need to bring in a substantial amount of fill dirt. Tim Whitman has some that we need to investigate. Martin Taylor has dirt as well but there is a lot of clay in it so it's not ideal. Tom Fouts has ideas for another method that will work to raise and fit the purlins. We might have a lead on a boom truck donation through Randy DeFosse. Don Bird, sound expert, said we need to do something to handle the sound reverberation. The lighting will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Stage Account balance:** \$3085

3/20

The GICCA Monthly Business Public Meeting was canceled due to restrictions on non-essential gatherings. Reports were posted on myguemes.org in lieu of a public meeting.

4/20

The April GICCA Monthly Business Meeting was held via Skype due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It was intended to brief the community and allow the board to conduct any necessary votes. An invitation was posted on myguemes.org and anyone who expressed the desire to join was sent a formal invitation.

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie (Project Manager) reported that we were shut down for the winter and were very excited to start working again when the stay at home order took the wind out of our sails. While we can't work at the site, there has been work behind the scenes. There have been great discussions regarding the ridge purlin and better ways to attach it, involving a metal structure covered by wood. Engineer approval is needed for structural changes so that is happening now. Old car decking, which was to be used for the underside of the roof, has been sitting at the site for a long time. It was painted with Swedish pine tar, the same product that was used under the pavilion roof. It has been found that this product will not protect the wood from mold when it does not have sun exposure so we will purchase different wood, treat it with a different product, and sell the old car decking. Kathy Whitman and Barb Ohms have been working on the Special Use Permit. It's a very detailed process that will take time. There are 2 applications requiring narrative style answers. Once the stage is finished, people can be on the stage; there just can't be any events until the permit is acquired.

**Stage Account balance:** \$23,260

Balance reflects a recent \$20,000 donation to the Stage Account.

5/20

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Rick Norrie, Tom Fouts, John Strathman & Jep Burdock for work at the Stage site. Tom Fouts for manufacturing the engineer-approved steel bracket for the king purlin. Adam Mimnaugh for donating another log for the Stage Project. Mary Hale for developing a budget for the Stage Project.

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie (Project Manager) reported that there has been a lot of progress made in the last 3 weeks. The seven purlins have been stripped, sanded, and timber oil applied. Next, we need to get them installed. We are getting them as ready as we can for installation while looking for the most economical method. The safest would be with a boom truck but that costs a lot of money. Hopefully, we will get 3 purlins up in the next 3 weeks. Once all purlins are up, we can put up the remaining 2 walls and do the wiring. We also must level the purlins before we can put on the car decking. We are looking at possibly hiring professionals to do that. Rick is trying to get the old car decking sold and has an interested party.

**Stage Account balance:** \$22,635

9/20

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Rick Norrie, Tom Fouts, Jep Burdock, John Strathman, and Gerry Bosworth. Strandberg Construction for providing equipment and operators to lift 5 of the 7 purlins. Dan Olsen from Olsen Tree Service for trimming the north side purlins. Cascade Roofing for the excellent crew and quality of work to install the roof. Howard and Carol Pellett for their generous donation covering the cost of the metal portion of the roof. Noel Montoya and Ivan Kaliban for additional drawings and consultation on the Stage plans.

**Stage Project:** We have come a long way over the last several months. Cascade Roofing was hired to do the roof and it looks fantastic. We have had several inspections; they have not gone as well as we would like – they are very persnickety. The L&I inspection was today and there were a few things we need to fix. Once that's done, we can move along. We'll get the walls up, apply timber oil under the roof and on the floor. We will come up with a landscaping plan and ensure that we meet ADA requirements. We've had great feedback from the public and people are anxious to start using it. Sadly, that can't happen until we pass all the inspections and get our special use permit. We will keep the fence up until we get the occupancy permit. Part of our building permit required that we plant trees in a buffer zone. Barb has access to some conifers that she will donate. Once we move to Phase 4 in the state's Covid-19 reopening plan we will get our special use permit. A plan is in the works for a dedication that will bring the community together and promote healing. Part of getting this permit requires, in addition to a large fee and several months, a formal landscaping plan and long-term usage ideas. We have many beautiful gardens and talented gardeners on the island. Hopefully, we will be able to get many volunteers to assist with the plan.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$13,260

10/20

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Volunteers Rick Norrie, Tom Fouts, Gerry Bosworth, John Strathman, and Jep Burdock for ongoing work at the Stage Project. Kent Scott and Michael Brown for consulting on the stage landscaping plan. Barb Ohms and Kathy Whitman for planning on the Stage landscaping.

**Stage Project:** The stage has passed two inspections recently – L & I and Framing. L & I can be very nitpicky, and it took us 2 tries to pass that one. Gerry Bosworth and Tom Fouts are both electricians and took care of fixing everything for the re-inspections. It also took two tries to pass the Framing Inspection, mainly because the original permit stated that landscaping would be completed prior to inspection. The covering on the walls will be cedar shingles. Jep is going to look at getting longer shingles as they're more aesthetically pleasing. Barb is getting bids on gutters. Kent Scott is a landscape architect and is helping develop a preliminary plan at no cost. Once the building is finished, we will start with minimal landscaping to get the building permit completed. We will also have a long-term plan for landscaping and overall park and GICCA sites combined. We will also have a long-term plan for landscaping. We would like to work on a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Skagit Parks and Rec. We want the community to see the Schoolhouse Park/Stage area as one property. We need to show that we can maximize parking by utilization of their parking areas with chalk striping added for large events. We need to have our application for a Special Use Permit in by the end of the year. The landscape plan is part of that application. This is required so that the stage can be used for events and so we can do a 4th of July celebration if the COVID restrictions are lifted. We need to have the Special Use Permit for any large scheduled or announced gatherings that would draw people from off-island.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$13,172.70

11/20

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Volunteers Rick Norrie, Jep Burdock, Tom Fouts, Gerry Bosworth, John Strathman and Barb Ohms for continuing work on the Stage Project this past month. Kent Scott and Michael Brown for further consulting on the Stage landscaping.

**Stage Project:** The physical structure of the stage is nearing completion. Timber oil has been put on the logs. Rick has purchased the cedar shakes for the walls. We need to sand the floor, install the shakes, and apply timber oil to both. Gerry can then finish the electrical. Gutters and landscaping round out the list. Barb has gotten 2 estimates for gutters - \$2000 and \$500. She will get a third. We probably won't use downspouts, opting for rain chain to a sump instead. A rainwater collection tank for irrigation is being looked at as well. Kathy and Barb have been working on the Special Use Permit. People really want a seamless venue, and since there are three connected parcels owned by 2 parties (the county and GICCA) we will be doing a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the county to clarify things. We will be able to use county parking areas for big stage events. We would also like to use simplified permitting – do things on a yearly basis instead of every event. We hope to be done with the application process by the end of December. Approval can take up to 6 months so, hopefully, if COVID-19 restrictions are lifted we will be able to do something for the 4th of July. Work will also be done to integrate the

Ferry Trail into the stage area. Julie Pingree thanked everyone involved for all the work that has gone into this project. Nobody anticipated how big it would become. Phyllis Bravinder thanked the board for all the stage information that has been posted; it's been great to know what is going on and to be informed.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$15,143.49

### **GICCA does not hold a monthly meeting in December.**

#### 2021

1/21

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Rick Norrie for his ongoing work at the Stage, shingling the walls. Gerry Bosworth for additional electrical work at the Stage.

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie has been busy shingling the walls. It's a very tedious process and he has 2 walls left to go. We purchased a rainwater catchment tank. Tom Fouts will provide ideas on how to install it so it's aesthetically pleasing. He's also donated boulders for landscaping. We have to wait for dry weather to bring in dirt. As part of building permit requirements, we will be doing some landscaping and a handicap walkway. We are also waiting for drier weather before we apply the timber oil. Special Use Permit Update – Barb Ohms and Kathy Whitman met with the county. Kathy has done a hero's job prepping for this. There were a few surprises. The estimated cost of the permit will be approximately \$4929. We may have to do a SEPA environmental review. We will get our ducks in a row, hopefully limiting the number of meetings necessary, which will reduce the costs. We learned that we need a county park designation. The goal is still to be ready by the 4th of July in hopes that COVID restrictions have eased.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$14,931

2/21

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Rick Norrie for his continuing work at the Stage shingling the side walls.

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie reported that the weather has made things interesting at the site. He has 6.5 of the 8 walls shingled. He might need to purchase 1-2 more bundles to get things done. We will have to wait for warmer weather to apply the Timber Oil. This oil should be applied every two years for maintenance. It is relatively easy when using a lacquer sprayer. Efforts to get the area cleaned up have included removal of tarps and plastic and they will be trying to burn debris in the near future. Cedar steps will be constructed on the back of the stage. Special Use Permit – Kathy has been working on the Special Use Permit. It is one application for 2 purposes: 1) it approves the location as a park and 2) it is a special event permit. One of the biggest hurdles is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review. This requires a lengthy form that hopefully will result in a determination of non-significance. We hope to get the application submitted in early March. Virginia Sternberg has extensive SEPA experience and will hopefully be able to assist with any questions.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$15,220

3/21

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Rick Norrie for finishing the shingling on the Stage walls. Gerry Bosworth for Stage site cleanup. Snowy Mountain Excavation for hauling dirt to the Stage site.

**Stage Project:** Barb Ohms reported that Rick Norrie finished the shingling. The stage is essentially done except for applying the finish. We need to wait for warmer weather to do that. Lots of clean-up work has been done and we need to do a dump run. A retaining wall needs to be constructed. Tom Fouts is donating boulders for this and Snowy Mountain has offered to haul them. The fill dirt then goes in. Tom is also donating some downed trees that will be milled to make the lumber for the back stairs. We need to complete the landscaping in the buffer zone to get the occupancy permit. Special Use Permit – Barb Ohms has been working on the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review application. Thanks to Tom Deach who found pictures of an old hand-pump well of which there was no record or report. This information was needed for the application to make sure we're not compromising a well.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$15,184

4/21

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Gerry Bosworth for clean up at the stage site. Rick Norrie for all the stage work – it looks great!

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie reported that Gerry Bosworth has been doing a great job cleaning up the area. The underbrush between the stage area and the road needs clearing. The hunt is on for a downed cedar tree to use for the wood for the stairs. It's also getting warm enough that the timber oil can be applied soon. Special Use Permit – The application was submitted on March 22nd. We have not heard anything yet. The approval process can take 4-6 months.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$15,073

5/21

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID restrictions.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Deb Bear for donating 50+ boulders to the Stage Project. Rick Norrie, Tom Fouts & Gerry Bosworth for loading and moving those boulders to the site. Gerry Bosworth for weed whacking and clean up at the Stage site. Dave Shill for the use of his flatbed trailer to move boulders to the Stage site. Mary Heath and Joe Bucek for donating many ferns that will eventually be planted at the Stage site. Lori Ripp for help with collecting ferns. Sally Stapp for donating and loaning many pots for use in transplanting plants for the Stage and Hall.

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie reported that there are now 50-55 boulders at the stage site to use for a tiered wall. A large cedar tree has been cut to 8-foot lengths. Next the wood will be milled, and the stairs will be built. The brush between the stage and road will be cleared. The Pavilion parking lot needs to be expanded to the south and a path created for handicap parking. We need to determine where the water tank will be located. Once the car ferry is back in service a sander will be rented to sand the deck of the stage. We will leave the temporary fencing in place until the county signs off on the permit. Special Use Permit – The application has been accepted. To date we have heard nothing about additional information that is needed. Approval can take 4-6 months. The Notice of Development Application and SEPA Comment Period was posted at the site on May 6th. The comment period ended on May 21st. Memo of Understanding (MOU) – Kathy has been working with Skagit County to come to a mutual understanding between them and GICCA. The county has requested a site plan showing all four parcels. We're hoping this process goes quickly as it's tied to the Special Use Permit and the required parking spaces needed for events. GICCA parking alone is not sufficient. The MOU would clarify the use of the combined GICCA and county parking. Thanks to Kathy Whitman for navigating these waters with her extensive Parks experience.

**Stage Account Balance:** \$14,851.52

**GICCA does not hold monthly meetings in June, July or August. However, work continued in earnest on the stage project.**

9/21

The GICCA Monthly Meeting was held in person with a virtual option offered via Zoom.

**Monthly Recognitions and Appreciations:** Thank you to the construction team of Rick Norrie, Tom Fouts, Gerry Bosworth and Barb Ohms for continued work. Becky and Sam Bonno for the loan of their dump truck. Les Eelkema for brush cutting around the stage. Deb and John Strathman for soil moving work at the stage. Deb Bear for donation of 14 loads of dirt and all of the boulders for the retaining walls at the stage.

**Stage Project:** Rick Norrie reported that we are close to completion. Some sanding and deck coating, landscaping, handrails along the south deck are pretty much what is left. We have expanded the west parking lot and will add an ADA walkway as well. Gerry Bosworth and Tom Fouts came up with a plan for handrails on the back and Gerry engineered a system for watering. Special Use Permit and County Parks Agreement – The Reciprocal Agreement (MOU) between GICCA and Skagit County Parks has been signed off. This allows us to count county parking spots, which were required as part of the Special Use Permit. This agreement is opening doors to collaboration with the county for possible yearly financial assistance on joint projects. It is also starting us on the path of a Master Plan for the area. When we applied for the Special Use Permit, we were told it would take 4-6 months, likely closer to

4. It has been nearly 6 months. At this point, we are awaiting the scheduling of the Hearing Examiner's Meeting, hopefully in October. *Addendum: Some minor corrections are required on the Special Use Permit Site Plan which Barb will complete. Our Hearing Examiner's meeting is scheduled for October 27.*

**Stage Account Balance:** \$12,196.65