Charter of the QGIS.ORG Association

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1 Legal status of QGIS.ORG

QGIS.ORG is the worldwide association of QGIS users and developers. QGIS.ORG constitutes as a Swiss 'association' (Verein im Sinne des Schweizerischen Zivilgesetzbuches (Art. 60-79 ZGB)).

2 Definitions

1. **'The association', 'QGIS.ORG'** - the not-for-profit legal entity as defined in Verein im Sinne des Schweizerischen Zivilgesetzbuches (Art. 60-79 ZGB)
2. **QGIS User Community** - Any active participant of the QGIS community including committers, patch providers, translators, document maintainers, advice givers, stack exchange contributors etc.
3. **QGIS Committers** - Any person who has been granted commit access in any of the official QGIS repositories
4. **QGIS Board** - The elected representatives of the QGIS community empowered with making day to day decisions on behalf of the project.
5. **QGIS Chair** - An individual elected from amongst the board who will act as the official representative of the QGIS project.
6. **QGIS User Group** - A formal regional or national chapter, meeting the criteria for official user group as defined by the board.
7. **OSGEO** - the umbrella organisation for FOSS GIS projects to which QGIS is a member
8. **Voting member** - any person who may vote on communal decisions made by the board. The voting members will approve the annual budget and the election of any new board members.
9. **Financial controllers** - nominated from the whole QGIS User Community and they are elected by the voting members. The financial controllers shall approve the accounts annually.

3 Goals of QGIS.ORG

1. Steer the QGIS project in order to maximise its good standing in the GIS community and ensure that we reach as many potential users who can benefit from our work as possible.
2. Coordination of QGIS project activities and disbursement of available financial resources for initiatives that will ensure the long term growth and sustainability of the QGIS project.
3. Marketing of QGIS through orientation courses, case studies, informative meetings or articles in GIS related media and any other suitable means.
4. Disseminate information to the QGIS community to keep them informed about planned and past activities including things such as the financial state of the project, initiatives that will be carried out on behalf of the QGIS project and so on.
5. Support of research or studies around QGIS.
6. Foster regular meetings of the QGIS community.
7. Act as a liaison between the community of QGIS user groups, QGIS user groups, and third parties interested in knowing about or supporting QGIS.

4 QGIS.ORG entities

1. The general meeting (meeting at minimum once per year)
2. The board
3. Two non-board members who shall act as financial controllers

5 Voting members

5.1 Types of voting members

1. **Community** representative voting members
2. **User group** representative voting members
3. An **OSGEO representative** voting member

5.2 Composition, appointment and role of voting members

The voting members shall be appointed according to the following scheme:

- **User Group Voting Members:** One voting member per QGIS country level user group. Each user group will nominate who their voting member shall be.
- **Community Voting Members:** For each user group voting member, there will be one voting community member elected.
- **OSGeo Voting Member:** One voting member representing the OSGeo foundation.

5.3 Voting member terms

Voting memberships will be valid until either:

- The voting member resigns
- There is a motion and passed vote to remove the member

5.4 Election and eligibility of user group voting members

- Only country-level user groups may forward a nominated voting member.
- In order to be recognised, a user group must be approved by the PSC, showing their foundation document and agreeing to abide by the guidelines defined for user groups.
- A user group may be a 'combined activity' group - for example a country OSGEO user group can also register as an official QGIS user group too.
- A user group should be a minimum of 10 users.
- A user group should demonstrate they have made their best effort to have a website based on their country domain (e.g. http://qgis.org.uk). The QGIS.ORG or the user group should hold the DNS record for the user group.
- The user group web site should be vendor neutral / unbranded.
- A sponsors page or area on the user group web site is permitted.
- The user group should democratically nominate one person from within their ranks to act as their representative within the QGIS.org voting membership.

5.5 Election and eligibility of community voting members

- Community members will be nominated and voted for by the established QGIS committers.
- Any active QGIS community member will be eligible for nomination as a QGIS.ORG voting member.

5.6 Honorable members

Honorable members are individual persons who receive special acknowledgment for extraordinary achievements in the QGIS project. Applications for the nomination of an honorable member should be directed to the board. The general meeting shall vote about the acceptance of a new honorable member.

6 The board

6.1 Terms of members of the board

Members of the board will have mandate until they resign or reach their maximum term of 6 years. On completion of their term, each board member shall be replaced by a general vote of all voting members. An immediate re-election of the outgoing board member is possible.

6.2 Composition of the board

The board shall include at minimum these roles:

1. the chair
2. the treasurer

At each meeting, the board shall nominate one person from within their ranks to act as secretary.

6.3 The Chairperson

The board members will vote at each year's annual general meeting to appoint or continue the existing appointment of the chair.

6.4 Honorary board members

Gary Sherman, founder of the QGIS project, shall be accorded lifetime honorary membership on the QGIS board from its inception. By common vote, QGIS.ORG may award any individual a lifetime honorary seat on the board.

6.5 Board remuneration

Board members would receive no remuneration for their services other than reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred when carrying out activities on behalf of the board.

7 Administration of QGIS.ORG

The annual general meeting (AGM) will be held during the first association meeting of each year. The assembly location and date is to be determined and communicated by the board at least two months in advance of the meeting. The board shall publish a meeting agenda prior to the meeting.

The meeting shall be open to all QGIS community members, but only voting members can vote on any motion. Substantial proposals made by QGIS community members for future QGIS.ORG activities should be provided to the board to be added as agenda items in advance of the meeting. Minor proposals should be presented to the board and dealt with independently of the AGM.

The general meeting shall deal with the following:

1. Approval of the annual report
2. Approval of the annual financial report
3. Approval of the annual budget
4. Election of the board chair
5. The nomination and election for the outgoing board member replacement
6. Confirmation or selection of the financial controllers
7. Resolutions / voting of proposals made by the board and / or voting members
8. Definition and revision of the statutes
9. Deal with any matters arising

All other decisions and competences are the responsibility of the board.

The board shall list proposals submitted by QGIS.ORG community members in the publication of the meeting agenda.

Extraordinary meetings can be convened by the board committee or on demand of at least 1/3 of the voting members.

Every officially convened general meeting has a quorum. At elections and for voting a simple majority (more than 50%) of the present members decides, except for the cases listed in 7 and 9.4.

The reporting year and the accounting year starts at January 1 and ends at December 31.

8 Financial arrangements

The financial revenues of QGIS.ORG shall originate from donations, sponsorships, grant funding and other diverse sources. The members of QGIS.ORG shall not be required to pay membership fees.

The general meeting shall elect two financial controllers (1st and 2nd controller and alternate controller). The mandate is for two years. Each year, the 1st controller is replaced by the 2nd controller, the alternate controller replaces the 2nd controller.

Limited Liability: the QGIS user group can only be held liable up to the amount of the current assets of the association. Personal liability of members of the board or individual other members are excluded.

9 Additional Regulations

1. The protocol of the general meeting shall be provided by the board and sent to the voting members prior to each general meeting. The chair of the association authorizes the release of the protocol.
2. Official correspondence of the user group shall be carried out in English.
3. The official domicile of the association is the offices of the Treasurer. The group is legally represented by the chair's signature and a signature of an additional member of the board. The treasurer's signature is valid within the bounds of the annual budget authorized by the general meeting.
4. The association can only be dissolved by the general meeting with a majority of more than ¾ of the voting members present at the general meeting. In case of the liquidation of the association, the general meeting can vote on the usage of the assets of the association with a simple majority (more than 50% of voters).

This charter was approved by the outgoing QGIS PSC via Google Hangouts on 07 October 2015.