

Attendance: Jim Sahr, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Vince LaRochelle, Lucy Kingsley (left at 6:00), Sue Theolass, Ken Kirby, Diane McWhorter, James Nason

Other participants: Bill Wright, Tait Duus, Amy Ehn, Laurel Georger, Crystalyn Autochovich (left at 6:00), Spring Adano (left at 6:00), Robin Forsman (left at 6:00), Justin Honea, Adam Budd

Introductions and Announcements: Around the room. No announcements.

Agenda Approval: Add to Post-Fair Debrief two letters from the mailbox.

***Motion: Approve the agenda (Jim /Vince) 8-0-0

Minutes Approval: Minutes of September 24, 2017

***Motion: Approve the minutes (Jim/Cathy) 8-0-0

Guest Concerns: Spring spoke briefly about the booth succession issue. Her family has had a booth since 1976. Members told her what they knew about how to successfully jury and become the next Booth Rep when her parents are ready to retire.

Board Liaison Report: Sue reminded attendees to vote in the upcoming election and attend the Annual Meeting. She will host a waiting-for-the-vote-count gathering.

Post Fair Debrief: Justin reported that having credit card payment ability helped facilitate the registration process. The fees paid for processing are very low as the Fair is a nonprofit. All booths were filled and with the lack of new construction this year, there was not much creation of space, but some may be pursued next year.

Two letters were received: One was a request for permanent placement from someone who knew the process might be changing, and wanted to make sure she was still considered. The second was a customer complaint. Diane had inquired of the crafter, who said that the transaction was completed, but the customer disagreed and pursued a reversal of charges from the bank.

Old Business: Permanent Placement Process: (Guidelines 57 and 58) The committee had discussed awarding booths in the fall for the following Fair, as a way to increase the time for the crafter to work on the booth, and limit the pressure to make the decision right before the Fair when it is hard to coordinate all of the decision-making parties. The committee felt they would recommend a date of September 30 as a deadline for Letters of Interest, using jury results from that year, with the awarding process completed even though the specific booth location would still need to be determined after availability was known in May. This would change the guidelines slightly, and would not begin until fall 2018 for placement in 2019. The decision-making group would review the materials in October and decide in November.

Vinyl Signage: (Guideline #75) The members generally support the guideline as is, except that the phrase "commercial printing process" seems unnecessarily unworkable. It would be wise to refer to the guideline in the Craft Inventory section, somewhere in #60. Sue has committed to an article in the FFN

and the committee decided to pursue education and awareness this year rather than a guideline change. Sallie, the BUM in charge of this area, wants to be kept in the discussion. The guideline clearly says no vinyl signs are allowed.

Booth Repair: Support is needed for crafters who have to repair their booths and sometimes find it very difficult to afford and manage the work. Craft Committee could offer support by listening, suggesting resources, observing the process if the crafter requested help, or in other ways. The Red Tag crew does work with the Booth Rep to offer support and resources, and Registration and Craft Inventory do as well, when they can. Perhaps the Elders could be of some assistance. The Kareng Fund is available to artisans suffering a career-threatening crisis, so could possibly be of help if there are extenuating circumstances.

Craft Policy Document: The document is ready to move forward out of the hands of the Craft Policy Working Group so the discussion centered on the best way to put it into the hands of all Fair family. Sue and Justin planned to take it to the Board retreat, discuss it with other Board members, and if needed, put it on the Board agenda. The intention was to make policy more transparent and support the coordinators in doing their work, by educating everyone with a more reader-friendly comprehensive version of the guideline rules. It is meant to be a tool for people to navigate the guidelines and their Fair experience. Because it is a compilation and not guideline changes, it could be posted on the .net website in the Documents section, with other documents from other bodies. A few things were added from Craft Inventory and Registration procedures, and some definitions were written to clarify. Food Committee created a similar document (and Budget Committee did too.) It could be sent out either in the packet, or an email blast to crafters, or at least referenced in the packet letter and registration materials to spread it more widely when it is officially posted.

A couple of edits were suggested which Diane will do before sending the document around.

The proposal for the Review Panel is not part of the document but was related work that was done by the work group, approved by the Craft Committee, and sent to Justin. He will take it forward.

***Motion: Request that Sue take a draft of the Craft Policy Document to the Board Retreat (Ken/Vince)
7-0-0

Permanent Placement Process: The group returned to this as Adam was not present earlier in the meeting. It was suggested that the LOI deadline instead be a window, such as between May 1st through September 30th. Keeping track of the requests needs to be carefully done.

One decision to make is the related issue of whether or not members who are not juried crafters (such as massage therapists, who are not juried by OCF but certified by the government) can become Booth Reps and get permanent placements. There is also a need to be fair to those who participate in the esoteric jury rather than the one for material crafts, giving them an opportunity to get a permanent booth when they will not have the required "top jury scores." The coordinator's recommendations are part of the decision-making process, but Coordinators prefer a known, transparent process rather than having a lot of latitude to make those decisions, if that opens them to criticism. Any guideline changes should support a known, transparent process.

Because of the many years of effort to bring the total of craft booths back to 250, there has not been wide support for changing booths occupied by material crafts to those offering massage or other types of services. This is a decision that has to be made at this time, perhaps solved by creating the category of service booths and deciding that a specific number of those be kept as is. The balance is good at this point, with a few booths designated for massage which regulate their own membership.

There has also been discussion about creating a different process for Booth Rep transfer, using recommendations from the existing Booth Rep, to make a decision by the type of collaborative group that makes permanent placement decisions, instead of that being a process internal to the booth only. Currently there is not a transparent process, and the Booth Rep has all the decision-making power, which has led to inequities for crafters and confusion by those who want to keep booths within their families. A clear process would be more fair to all.

Any guideline rewrites should be careful to use the language of “artisan” rather than vendor.

The meeting time ended, so Diane agreed to frame next month’s agenda as some answerable questions or proposals on these subjects.

Bullying: Put on the agenda for January.

New Business: Craft Carts: Clarification was needed on whether or not those using Craft Carts could share them. That was not the intention of the category. It was meant to be for one crafter only. They were not intended to be occupied by different crafters every year, however. They were intended to get strolling vendors off the paths when they were not working in our current crowd situation. There is a specific Registration liaison, with a map of locations, and addresses for the crafters within so they can be located, listed in the directory, and so on. There will still be some strollers, limited to those who really want to stroll and can do it safely and effectively. The guideline language or application language may need to be modified to match the intent and present usage.

Craft Partners: put on the agenda for January.

Adjourned 7:45 pm