

Attendance: Jim Sahr, Sue Theolass, Kim Allen, Ken Kirby, Lucy Kingsley, Amy Ehn, Vince LaRochelle, James Nason, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Diane McWhorter Scribe: Diane McWhorter
Other Participants: Tait Duus, Corona, Bill Wright

Agenda Approval: ***Motion: Approve the agenda (Jim/Ken) 9-0-0

Minutes Approval: ***Motion: Approve the minutes of the Jan 10th meeting (Sue/Jim) 9-0-0

Guest Concerns: none

Board Liaison Report: Sue reported that the Valhalla (formerly Secret House) Winery property has been purchased, pending final inspections, etc. Immediate use will be for parking for the Fair. Future uses may be many, as there are buildings, room for other events, and more. It's 52 acres with highway access. The town office project will be put off for a bit. There was a Board discussion about the guideline changes to replace the word "grandfathered," on the grounds that it has racist origins. Cathy took the definition of "legacy" to the meeting to explain why it wasn't the best substitute. Two places where the word was used were bypassed by using "approved" crafts as a temporary fix until the best language can be found. The changes put forward by Craft Committee were passed as submitted. There will be fireworks this year for 4th of July.

Booth Classification Discussion: The question of who makes decisions about booths and their use and locations was discussed. Path Planning works on appropriate locations for uses like smoking areas and corridors, so would weigh in on booth locations, for instance, if it were decided that there should be an area for massage booths, or another type of grouping. The group consisting of Registration, Craft Inventory, and Craft Committee and Management that decides on awarding Permanent booths could make decisions regarding uses as well. This ongoing discussion has the purpose of working through details and ramifications of designating types of booths and the conditions that would surround them. At present there are only Food Booths or Craft Booths. Crafters jury, including esoteric crafters, but massage therapists do not (they are required to provide licenses but Booth Reps choose who participates.) Esoteric Crafters can have a hard time finding places to fit in, as they are different modalities than massage. The Fair should have some responsibility in deciding which massage modalities are unique and special as they do for material crafts, for which the jury is rigorous. Clearer descriptions of modalities and Esoteric disciplines could help to differentiate them and find those that are special and outstanding for Fair. Some type of vetting or jurying could be set up for massage or other types of services. The process for selecting Esoteric Crafters could be formalized and updated. In the past they were asked to do a demonstration of their craft before a jury, but at present they fill out a form describing their practices, which is reviewed by CI personnel.

Ideas brought forward include separating Craft booths into Material Crafts, Service Crafts, or Esoteric crafts, or creating a designation such as Healing Arts or Wellness crafts. It is estimated that there are about 35 massage practitioners, offering many modalities. The people offering them change over time, at the discretion of the Booth Reps. The Mothership model seems to work, but a closer look at those dynamics could be taken, perhaps in the process of creating another center for services in that model. Some modalities would not work well in craft booths in some locations, but perhaps a place could be found where quieter, more private services could be practiced.

Number quotas for types of crafts have never been part of the jury process, so there would be resistance to limiting services to a particular number of practitioners. Putting a freeze on the number of massage therapists might allow for sufficient time to discuss and work out the details of the issues, but it is not a practical idea.

The first step may be a guidelines proposal (next December) to designate Massage Booths, along with the number and locations of them. Along with that, Esoteric Craft Booths could be designated, or a combined category called Healing Arts or something. Wellness would be a preferable term, as people can't claim "healing" legally. Saturday Market has several sub-categories under "Services", each with separate requirements that fit the practices.

Bringing in Registration would be essential. No booths would likely be required to move, but decisions could be made in the future, or in cases of displacement due to erosion or crowding. A meeting in August could include invited guests from massage and other practices, or any other stakeholders who would be affected.

Booth Rep Transfer Process Discussion: Formalizing the process with a form to file with Registration, and bringing more scrutiny to the transfer would help support those crafters in the booths who are only there by the choice of the Booth Rep. At present they don't have any security in continuing in that particular location, which leaves them less likely to fully commit to maintenance and improvement of the space and booth, and limits their Fair experience and ability to work for their own success. Booth Reps have power that opens the possibilities of unfair decision-making processes, and disenfranchisement of other crafters. A transfer process would bring more equality for crafters and fairness in planning for the future.

Food Committee has formalized their process, for health and safety reasons, to insure that someone qualified and experienced enough to run the booth is put in charge. A simple application and interview process could be put in place for craft booths, possibly taking into account the number, qualifications, and seniority in the crafter population of an existing booth. While good decisions are made by Registration and the vast majority of Booth Reps, there are still perceptions of inequality and those would be eased by a process. This would also support Registration in decision-making, shining a light on how the decisions are made.

Protection could be included for crafters in booths who have complaints about their situations. Presently it is hard for them to feel that their rights are protected when they can be removed from the booth for disagreements. The form could include questions about what the Booth Reps' plans are for the existing crafters in the booth. Most times intentions are good and people work through these decisions fairly, but adding a simple process to the decisions would be helpful on several levels. A few simple questions of the other crafters could be included (such as, "do you want to be the booth rep?") Some anonymity could be included.

The decision-making process for granting permanent booths has worked well, including members of Registration, Craft Inventory, Craft Committee and Management. Having representatives from those four bodies brings a lot of expertise and experience together.

50th Anniversary: Plans were announced at the Board meeting for a few items that would involve crafters. Craft demos are planned, with equipment provided. Histories would also be placed around the Fair, which could be about individuals or booths. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

