

Attendance: Jim Sahr, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Diane McWhorter, Kim Allen, Lucy Kingsley, Sue Theolass, James Nason  
Scribe: Diane McWhorter

Guests: Bill Wright, Adam Budd, Justin Honea, Samantha Backer, Jay Schuster, Peter Huiras, Gerardo Fuenzalida

Guest: Jury Results Feedback: Gerardo questioned the reason his products received good scores by all but one juror, who gave him a 1 (lowest possible points), causing him to get an overall score eleven points below his relatively high score from last year. He has sold for five years. It was suggested that quality of photos might be a reason for a low score, or some confusion from the juror about the origin or crafting of the products. He still had the points to get in, although he was not eligible for a one-year-only booth, and was placed on the wait/share list. Since the jurors change each year, the lower score seems to be an anomaly, and no remedy was suggested.

Zapplication sent the scores from each juror to the applicants although that was not the intention of Craft Inventory. Some shows throw out the lowest score for all applicants. Adam (Craft Inventory Coordinator) explained the jury process: first the jurors get a quick viewing of all of the photos, and then see them again for the evaluating part. Criteria include the quality of work, the craft itself as a whole, the craftsmanship, and the items' suitability for the OCF in the opinion of the juror. Jurors are selected each year from people familiar with OCF and the craft world, but not directly connected with crafts at OCF. Generally only the aggregate score is sent to the applicant. This was a glitch that will likely be fixed for next year. Scores can change from year to year due to the other crafts in the jury, as well as juror interpretations. There were about 300 applications, which means almost a thousand photos to review. Gerardo was assured that it is more than likely that all of the wait/share crafters will find space this year.

Guest: Jay Schuster asked about why he hasn't been granted a permanent booth even after placing second highest in the jury scores. He had been a strolling vendor for many years but took a place in a booth expecting that he would be next in line to be Booth Rep, during the year when several strolling vendors were placed in stationary locations due to path crowding issues, so felt that he had lost a chance he had worked for. He had some confusion about the language in the guidelines. The Committee put the process on the agenda for New Business.

Announcements: Justin announced that Registration is busy! They will be beginning the process of calling people who did not return their packets by the deadline, and then will begin calling those who did not pay their fee by the deadline. Forgetting to put return envelopes in the packets turned out to have an unexpected effect of a collection of very creative and delightful envelopes in the mail.

Approval of Agenda: no changes

\*\*\*Motion: Accept the agenda (Cathy/Diane) all in favor 7-0-0

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 13, 2016

\*\*\*Motion: Accept the minutes (Cathy/Sue) 6-0-1 (Lucy)

Board Liaison Report: Sue reported that the instructions for the whitelist for credit-card processing were in the FFN and plans are for there to be two additional ATMs one at Main Stage, and one at Dragon's Head.

Peter Huiras' Situation: Peter came to Craft Committee with the idea of helping his campaign to get permanent status in the booth he has been using as a one-year-only for several years. It is a space no one wanted but he has made it work well. He has submitted a Letter of Interest, has been a top-scoring crafter, and feels he has met the stated requirements for placement. His score on one of the applications he presented was the top score, while the other two were lower. He mostly takes commissions and displays his handcrafted musical instruments and jewelry. (Please note: bringing crafts to Craft Committee is not a part of the Permanent Booth Placement process.)

Permanent Booth Placement: A couple of the sentences in the guideline are open to different interpretations. A discussion needs to be held about the guideline, and a separate discussion needs to be held for any placement requests, preferably not when the applicants are present. While the committee wants to operate transparently, the placement decision is made by a slightly different group, one that includes CI, Reg, Management, and CC. Since no Management representative is present, the placement discussion cannot be held at present. A separate meeting needs to be scheduled. Whether that meeting should be closed or open is a question that has to be discussed as well. It is common practice to ask guests to leave in situations when emotions can be involved and misinterpretations can be taken outside the room, and difficult discussions are often best held in confidence. That decision will be made by the group at that meeting.

Spaces have not been given in recent years, except for the necessity placements to relocate booths impacted by crowding, erosion, etc., partly because of the ambiguities in the process as outlined in the guidelines. It's not clear if all of the jury scores have to be at the top, the aggregate score, or just one in the number of applications the crafter submitted. It's not clear if multiple years of jurying are necessary or just the present year. The Letter of Interest should be the vehicle for presentation by the crafter, and not a "pitch" at the Committee meeting, because Craft Committee does not want to be in the position of jurying a crafter, but rather feels the responsibility of advocating for all crafters. It would be hard to schedule a "pitch" for people who live out of Eugene, and it is more fair to use the jury scores. The timeline for decision-making is not clear, and there is not a stated deadline for the LOI.

The process should be fair to all crafters and not be a "squeaky wheel" reaction out of the context of the whole Fair. Booth availability must be known before any are assigned. Plans of committees or staff, such as Path Planning or groups in Xavanadu, have to be known so that spaces won't be given that won't stay crafter spaces. While there are some empty booths this year, and the goal is to bring craft booth numbers back up to 250, taking the time to make wise, fair placements is better than filling all the spaces now or even in the next few years. The flexibility of the one-year-only booths works to place the maximum number of crafters.

Only two LOIs have been received (from these two crafters, Peter and Jay.) Theoretically anyone who read the guideline could have sent in an LOI. However, only a few of those could get top jury scores, as

some crafts will likely not gain those scores. Jurying involves some risk to the crafters, as well as letting it be known that they are looking for different space, which might cause their Booth Rep to replace them. The process needs to be timed to allow the crafters to succeed in retaining or gaining new space.

A meeting was set for Tuesday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm to discuss the two requests with Management present. It will take the place of the regular June Craft Committee meeting which was scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. Ambiguities in the policy and suggestions for process can be shared by email and a clearer expectation can be given for the participants.

Each participant brings part of the information. Management and Registration give the picture of space availability and location. Craft Inventory verifies scores and years of participation of the crafters. Craft Committee brings the concern for fair treatment and equal access for all crafters, and an understanding of policy interpretation from the group which has been working on the policy document. Craft Committee doesn't want to be in the position of evaluating the crafts, but would rather be impartial and rely on the scores.

New Opportunity: There is a person who repairs and restores vintage sewing machines, who would be interested in selling them after hours in a booth. He has been offered space. Is this enough of a craft? They aren't typical handcrafted objects significantly altered in a hand-crafted fashion. This is a product many crafters would be interested in seeing and buying, and craft supplies have been known to have been sold after hours. Perhaps some type of "skills" category for crafts can be created. This is a tool, or perhaps a service, and maybe there is a way to support this type of thing. The members will think about it. There was a crafter who was a strolling sewing machine operator, who made some simple crafts, but the attraction was the activity and the application of skill, not really the crafts he made with it. There isn't currently a guideline that really covers this. Unless there is a clear guideline, Craft Inventory makes the call on whether or not the person is causing a problem with the after-hours sales, and at that point they would evaluate whether or not the product is hand-crafted.

Members should review the Craft Specifics part of the CPD to see if quick approval can be made May 31<sup>st</sup> to pass them to CI for use this year. They aren't all finished, but many of them are and could be of use.

Next meeting May 31, 5:30 pm at the town office. The June meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm. It will be on a Tuesday instead of the regular Wednesday meeting night.