

Attendance: Jim Sahr, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Ken Kirby, Diane McWhorter, Sue Theolass

Other participants and guests: Bill Wright, Charlie Ruff, Justin Honea

Charlie began the meeting with an update on the progress of the Crafts Lot Operations Group (CLOG) and their report at the Board Retreat. He introduced a document from the Booth Selection Sub-Committee of PP. The BSSC wants to work with both Food and Craft Committees to begin the process of booth selection for the new spaces. He requests that CC develop a Letter of Interest which will be sent to craftspeople as an initial step in assessing who would like to move. This process would happen in December and at our January meeting we would work together to make some initial choices or refine the selection process, criteria, and booth archetypes.

The first year would concentrate on making sure the food booth areas are viable and reach the critical mass needed for success, and will include some number of relocated and new booths. There are 3-6 booths which will be moves of necessity. More crafts booths will be added in the second year, and by year three the total number of craft booths in the Fair should increase from the present 241 to 250 or more. After the letters of interest are received, BSSC and CLOG will know how to adjust plans to serve the needs expressed. It is expected that most current booths who might relocate would desire the traditional model, but this is also an opportunity to step out of tradition and create something new.

Charlie asks that we save 45-60 minutes at both our January and February meetings for these issues.

He threw out a “wild card” in the idea of some type of renewal re-jurying every five years or so for new vendors. This is a good time to set new expectations with incoming vendors to avoid some of the problems inherent in grandfathered status. Although some committee members have discussed jurying for all vendors, it would be extremely difficult to change the grandfathering agreements, so this plan would only involve new vendors. Most Fairs require jurying every year so this should not be an alien concept to craft vendors. It may also be possible to work through increased attention to Standards Guidelines (a project discussed with Craft Inventory at past meetings) such as those of Saturday Market. This is a subject to think about, and we can discuss it further at the winter meetings.

After Charlie left, Justin explained the current Crafts Lot map in detail. Security will inhabit a new peninsula, and most structures will be around the perimeter to keep the meadows under the oak trees more flexible. He is working with Camping Crew to establish a new camping area for one-year-only and strolling vendors, particularly when there is not room for them to camp with their crafts. Dragon Plaza will be changing in the future. There will be lots of room for art displays, presentation boards from other groups at Fair, such as Energy Park, Galleria Philantropia, and kiosks displaying history, other OCF facets, etc.

A side note is that the Kids Craft booth has apparently been paying a fee as a service booth. It should be free to the coordinator, who does not profit from her service. Justin will follow up on that.

Strolling booths: It is time to examine whether or not strolling vendors are still a viable choice at our Fair. We can look at it over the next few months. Turning strollers into temporary booths may be better from a safety standpoint, but some could be retained if they work well.

Feedback Reports: There seem to be four main areas of feedback: Imports, Noise, Peach Pit listings, and some others, such as fee complaints.

Noise: complaints about canned amplified music continue. Management and Security responded to neighbor complaints and our Board liaison to enforce the guidelines in the upper river loop area, eliminating the problem this year. (Thanks!) Other situations are being resolved as well. A letter to the Board asking staff to enforce guidelines so that craftspeople (who are part of the entertainment too) can get the sleep they need to perform may be drafted at a future meeting. Amplified music has increased but it is the canned type that is really inappropriate at our venue.

Peach Pit Listings: there are always complaints about the listings, and it seems that Registration is compiling it tediously from an antiquated database. CI should be able to help with this as they tighten their data. Getting clear information from almost 1000 crafters is a huge challenge. We can help by making it clear that **emailing Registration is the best way to communicate** booth issues such as this, as well as filling out the info sheet that comes in the packet. Justin will be meeting with Gary and will work together with him on this. **Email Registration with Peach Pit Listing in the subject line** so that they will be able to channel your info to the right people. An ad or posters letting people know about the info booth books with their comprehensive listings would help. CC has been discussing an insert with purchased ad space to list booths, but this is a more long-range idea. There also could be a list of cellphones so that neighborhood response could be quicker in emergencies.

The imports issue should improve with the recent changes in CI, such as photographing crafts and searching the internet. Reporting suspected importers is helpful. Looking at the number of shows people do is also part of the picture. What was the effect of the Barter Fair pause on imports in the Fair? Ken was not able to do his customary night surveys. Barter Fair agreements should also help with this issue. It's very difficult to question vendors who say they do make their own goods, so it will be much easier to divert them before they jury. We support Craft Inventory efforts to approach suspected importers, and recognize the difficulty, and do appreciate their human approach to the matter.

WIFI Access: There was a lot of confusion and many complaints about the lack of wireless service at this year's Fair. The capital project was not completed, and Registration could not give the password to vendors as planned. **We cannot stress enough how important this improvement is to both vendors and customers.** Renting a cellphone tower, jobbing out the project to professionals, or whatever is necessary needs to be in the budget, and the project completed for this July. Coverage still may be spotty using the present system, due to our geography, but whatever has to be done has to be prioritized.

We set our winter meeting dates for January 15 and February 12. Agenda will include: Crafting a report for the FFN, Strolling vendors, Jurying new vendors/standards, and responses from the letters of interest about moving.

