

In attendance: Voting members: Jim Sahr, Kim Allen, Anita Parish, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Ken Kirby Non-voting participants: Bill Wright, Jeff Allen Recorder: Diane McWhorter

As the agenda was long, items were addressed within the time limits of the meeting, with many deferred to the next meeting.

Permanent Booth Status awarded: The Committee wants to know if proper procedure was followed and a permanent booth was indeed awarded to a vendor who was not qualified for it. Registration may be able to provide more details. Tabled.

Communications with Registration: Jim will contact Justin in regard to improving communication between Registration and the Craft Committee. The Committee members will clarify what they want to know from Registration, and how to meet the goals regarding improved function of the Craft Committee through better information flow. Jim will invite Justin or a representative from Registration to the October 12 meeting.

Choosing a Craft Committee Contact Person: In cases where one spokesperson would be advantageous, the committee would like to have a designated person. All members will still be able to provide general information such as meeting schedules, and speak as individual members.

***Motion: Nominate Kim Allen as the Contact Person (Anita/Ken) All in favor.

Adding Diane as Craft Committee Member: She is over-committed and not ready to officially join the committee at this time, though she is happy to continue taking the minutes.

Reports of Vendor Charging Sales Tax: This is probably a Registration or Craft Inventory Crew issue, but the committee will assist in trying to gather statements from customers who have reported this occurrence, and investigate how the crews will handle the issue. In the past Craft Committee has been helpful in providing information in serious violations such as this, and feels this is in the Fair's vital interest.

Evening Sales Report: Ken reported that he continued his Friday and Saturday evening patrols at the event this year, and found no evidence of large-scale import sales, and less blanket-vending after hours than in previous years. He continues his approach of asking questions and providing information about the guidelines to sellers, who often comply and pack up their wares. There is a continuing problem area below Main Stage in an area with late-night coffee and mask sales. Two sellers have been using the open space that is undeveloped parks, created in the effort to create green space in that area, even storing unsightly piles of tarp-covered racks and clothing there during the day. Fair management did deal with the situation when asked, and the storage was improved but not eliminated. Security staff does not take part in shutting down any unauthorized after-hours sales, and this is a volunteer effort by Ken to document the situation.

The committee strongly feels that the unimproved park space should be improved as seating for food booth customers, or turned into legitimate craft space again. Two booths could fit there. The committee will communicate this to Fair management and Craft Inventory and Registration.

Sales of light toys and glowsticks in the meadow continue and it would be highly unpopular to attempt to shut the sales down, and probably too difficult. Cathy will write again in the spring in the FFN and/or packet to remind folks of the toxicity issues with the glow sticks.

Morning sales are also happening but generally there is compliance in putting the items away when the fair opens to the public.

The committee had a discussion about the slipping away of the values of the original fair, with more inappropriate behavior from those who don't necessarily even participate in the daytime craft fair.

Craft Inventory Post-Fair Report: The committee discussed the written report from Jeff Harrison. Members of the committee were highly appreciative of the approach and thoroughness of the crew and touched on several areas of concern, including deceased crafters, family succession of craft businesses, crafters being absent from booths, and craft businesses that become too large for the crafter to continue making and selling the work in person. Some members prefer flexibility in policies rather than explicit policies on some issues, since the "velvet hammer" approach of CI has been successful in gaining cooperation with firmness in most cases. A new Craft Inventory location at the Fair would be good, since Odyssey is so far for most crafters to access from their booths.

Craft Committee Minutes and Report to BOD or FFN: no decisions were made regarding distribution of these documents. Minutes will continue to be posted online. The committee can be contacted via the email ocfcraftcommittee@live.com

Next meeting October 12, 6:00 pm at the town office.