

Attendance: Jim Sahr, Kim Allen, Anita Parish, Cathy Coulson-Keegan, Lucy Kingsley, Sue Theolass, Ken Kirby, Diane McWhorter
Scribe: Diane McWhorter

Other Participants: Bill Wright, James Nason, Wren Davidson, Jeff Harrison (briefly)

Please note: Discussion points are made by individuals and are not necessarily the consensus or position of the Craft Committee.

Minutes Approval:

**Motion: Minutes of August 13. (Jim/Cathy) All in favor 6-0-2 Correct the number of years James was involved from 12 to 9.

Letters to Sanctioned Crafters: The three letters have not yet been sent as the correct addresses haven't been gathered despite several requests. OCF envelopes will be used and the letters sent as registered letters as well as by email.

Post-Fair Craft Inventory Report: Jeff stopped in to say he didn't have it ready yet.

Agenda Template and Meeting Etiquette: Suggestions were to use a prepared Meeting Etiquette list of expectations for meeting behavior, as well as a consistent Agenda Template as used by many groups. Members objected to adopting a document that basically said be polite, which is already a basic expectation. They had objections to the stiffness of addressing the facilitator instead of the group, but were assured that that is a measure that is only needed in times of contention. There was general agreement that side conversations and dialoguing and interrupting were problems that need members' attention, but a less formal structure was preferred by some members. The intent of the agreement is to have something in place to set basic expectations, particularly for visitors, of productive meeting behaviors. Those voting against felt it was just not needed and could be awkward and a waste of time.

***Motion: Acknowledge that we have general agreement with the Meeting Etiquette sheet and keep it in mind in the future. (Diane/Sue) 5-3-0.

Posting the agenda on a large display visible to all would allow people to know what will be covered and the order of it, and provide a way for attendees to add things to the agenda easily at the meeting. Using a familiar template would allow attendees to step into the meeting with a sense of recognition for the process and the ability to know when it will be appropriate to bring up topics. The order isn't a big change from what is already being followed. Generally the committee discusses old business over a long period of time mixed with other related issues, so the New/Old Business part might not be useful.

***Motion: Adopt the agenda template (Diane/Lucy) 5-3-0

Canned Amplified Music: Crafters have particular needs for quieter nights, and acoustic musicians are shut down when amplified and recorded music is allowed in neighborhoods within the Fair. Many object to the erosion of the handcrafted music opportunities that are supposed to be protected according to Article II of the Bylaws. The Board will be discussing this at the next meeting and the Committee would like to submit a statement of support for the guidelines and bylaws. The management team is required to make sure there are neighborhood agreements around permitted amplification, and this follow-through seems lacking. The guidelines addressing this issue are on pg. 16 #47, pg. 4 #11, and pg.29, the end of #84. A “cone of silence” is supposed to be maintained in certain areas. Stages in the parking lots are more appropriate than within the residential areas of the interior. As artists we have to support the music created by the “hands and hearts” of the acoustic musicians. Ken will craft a statement and circulate it by email for editing and refinement.

Statement that resulted:

Craft Committee recommends that the guideline limiting amplified prerecorded music be more rigorously enforced. In our opinion the stipulations of this guideline have not been effectively enforced, especially regarding the sometimes disruptive impact of amplified music on the well-being of nearby neighborhoods. Crafters work all day in their booths and need to have a reasonable amount of quiet time to relax and get enough sleep. In recent years the amount and volume of amplified music played at night has increased, with a corresponding reduction in the time available for quiet rest.

In addition to this, the Fair's By-Laws identify one of the purposes of the Fair as "the promotion and preservation of the work of individual crafts persons, artists, artisans, musicians and performers[...]" Excessive playing of amplified prerecorded music detracts from the pursuit of this goal by all the talented musicians and performers present at the Fair. Fair guidelines prohibit the sale or display of factory made goods, which we believe does contribute to the promotion and preservation of traditional hand crafting. In solidarity with musicians and performers at the Fair, we feel that amplified prerecorded music should be more carefully restricted than it has been.

As part of a solution, perhaps more strict criteria could be applied when granting permission for amplified sound at night. Perhaps consideration for the neighborhoods where permits are requested could be given more weight in this process. Also, we request that the Board and the general manager work to develop a more proactive and robust mediation process for timely resolution of noise complaints after hours.

Craft Policy Document: The definitions of “Crafter” and “Helper” are what the work session ended with. Further discussion:

Crafter: A person who imagines, designs, creates and makes art and craft items for sale at the Fair, or a practitioner of the esoteric arts.

Discussion: Words like design and produce carry additional assumptions in the manufacturing

world, so they could be misleading here. Often the crafter does not imagine the product, such as a tote bag or piece of furniture, and they may use someone else's design in some cases (such as if a piece of furniture were from a Frank Lloyd Wright design). Production in a factory setting is much different from production in a one-person shop. All definitions should use as few words as possible to get the idea across. "Crafts" is another verb that could be useful. Work on this more for the Sunday work session.

Helper: is meant to be a person who assists the crafter in a minor role, and the method of payment is not addressed. The SM second standard could be adapted, with its language of "member contribution." There still will be judgment calls made by CI on the level of helper contribution. Closing loopholes is one of the goals of the definitions, so they must be specific and not use vague language that can be interpreted in different ways. The burden of proof for a helper will fall on the crafter, and an application form could be used to question them on the level of helper participation. Work on this for the Sunday work session.

Freshness Standard: This would define an expectation that: *You are expected to be a currently active crafter within your field. Therefore there must be product(s) within your inventory that has been produced by you within the last 12 months.* This might be a good thing to put into the packet letter or find a place in the Craft Policy for it. Many crafters do bring items that are several or many years old, but should have new work as well. It would be difficult to enforce but sets a standard of expectation. The photo records will show the work that is brought year after year, and the crafter could be asked to show their new work to CI.

Co-creators have not been allowed in recent years; both members must pass the jury to be listed as crafters.

Adjourned 8:15