

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

Other Participants: Bill Wright, James Nason, Jeff Harrison

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the meeting evaluations won't be included in the published minutes.

\*\*\*Motion: Approve the minutes (Cathy/Ken) 6-0-1

Agenda Approval: agreed

Board Liaison Report: Sue reported that the new GM seems to have a good grasp of crafts issues. She will be requesting time at the Board Retreat for crafts issue discussion.

Booth Inheritance: Some discussion has been held in the membership about this issue but the committee feels that existing policy is sufficient.

Report from Craft Inventory: Jeff came in as the committee was discussing the report. Some noticed the strong support for the maker/seller and thorough discussion of current crafts issues. It's great to have CI support for the recent work the crafters have been doing to strengthen the craft sector of the Fair. The Pathwalkers did hand out the CC letter to each crafter. More photographs were taken of crafts in the booths for the database.

Sanction Process/Crafts Review Panel: The process the committee contributed to recently was relatively smooth but some type of formal action has to happen to put such a process into policy for the next time. A broad representation of crafters and volunteers and staff would probably make the process work best. The Craft Committee as it is, including members of CI, has the expertise but needs a formal structure for such review actions separate from its committee responsibilities. Concerns about the panel are that not enough crafters would be represented, or that the guidelines might be misinterpreted or changed in the process. Not all crafters agree on all the issues such as imports at night and other crafts situations. The proposal for a 9-person panel which includes members of the Board as well as Registration and Craft Inventory seems to be a solid plan. Appeal and politics would be limited as the Panel would have the authority to make the final decisions.

Using political power to appeal through individual Board members is a situation to be avoided in crafts and booth issues. Past situations have been messy and inconsistent when they got political.

Screening new applicants before the jury would be a great way to find out more about them than is available on the jury form. It's difficult to determine whether the crafters who do have bigger production facilities bring the factory items to the Fair, as they may be exercising the option to bring only their handcrafted items to the Fair. It could be made clearer to that type of crafter that they need to prove there is a sufficient firewall between the factory and their hand-crafting. A sentence on the ap could tell them that the Fair expects that, or a letter could be sent to questionable crafters. Sometimes it

would be obvious that they don't qualify, but the application may be vague about the expectations. Sometimes crafters think they are "making" the product when they are only adding a finish detail to a manufactured product. Checking pre-jury would be best if it could be done. Craft Inventory has not been in the practice of making the kinds of judgments possible in the more frequent meetings of an organization like Saturday Market, such as volume of crafts, pricing, and face-to-face conversations with the crafter outside the three days of selling. Studio visits or go-to-meeting sessions could help with the process of proving the veracity of complaints.

Written complaints about crafts or crafters are best, as they can be passed to the Pathwalkers who can take a look and talk to the crafter.

Article for FFN: Is there some news or something important to say? Some of the info from the letter the Pathwalkers handed out might make a good article.

New GM: We hope to invite Tom to our next meeting. The Craft Policy Document may be ready if the working group can meet one or two times before the Committee meeting.

Meeting Evaluations: These don't need to be part of the public minutes. They are meant to provide feedback to the members within the group. They won't be written in the future and that will be retroactive to May.

Meeting Dates: Lucy can't attend on Wednesday for several months. Tuesdays work for most. The second or third Tuesday will be tried for October and November.

New Business: What about an article for the FFN that gives specific info about one crafter and one craft process (or a few)? An interview would be lively and interesting. It could begin with the bylaws section about the individual crafter. It could be in the Nov. issue with some promotion for the various holiday shopping opportunities.

Integrated Information System: Better communications are needed in many parts of the Fair and its operations. More people would vote, be in the database, and find the answers they need if more people could access online information details. The wifi system needs a major upgrade. There is talk about hiring a part-time IT position but it's still in the early stages. People might be required to update their info yearly as they get their wristbands. There will still be people who do not want to be in the database, but most will.

Next meeting Tuesday Oct. 20, 6:00 pm at the town office.

