

Attendance: Lucy Kingsley (chair), sue theolass, James Nason, Diane McWhorter, John Govsky, Arna Shaw,
Doug Quirke, Adam Budd, Dani Derrick, Vanessa Roy

Excused: Vince LaRochelle, Kim Allen

Scribe: Diane McWhorter

Introductions and Announcements: There will be a Board Work Session on the Emerald Ash Borer

Agenda Approval: Add to New Business: the Budget Committee wants an opinion on the refund policy
Add Work Tasks Old Business

***Motion: Approve the agenda (Diane/John) 6-0-0

Minutes Approval: minutes of the October meeting (John/James) 5-0-1 (Arna)

Guest Concerns: none

Board Liaison Report: sue announced the election of new officers of the Board and organization. Arna reported that the last meeting was very short, with the officer election and a correction to the Rules Committee. She will send something regarding the Annual Report of the committee to the contact person (Lucy). They will want a summary of the work done in 2023 and the Work Plan for 2024.

Staff Report: Vanessa reported that staff is working on budgets, and a website redesign. The Fair Family News is looking for new members, for layout especially. The office will be closed from Dec. 18th until Jan. 2nd plus Nov. 23rd and 24th.

Coordinators' Reports: Adam has still not completed a report for the committee though he has been working with his crew on various issues for supporting crafters.

Doug announced that the Virtual Booth Claim Deadline will be March 1st, 2024. This is to commit as a returning seller. There will be several emails sent to spread awareness of the change to two months earlier. They are prepared for lots of extra communication as this transition occurs.

Old Business: Feedback Report: the Craft-related comments on the Feedback report was regarding the Artisan Listing in the Peach Pit. The report was discussed at the Annual Meeting. Most of the other concerns were the usual ones which repeat every year.

Town Hall Debrief: The turnout of both committee members and the artisans was disappointing. More announcements should be made before the next one, though possibly the timing was a factor. Several people did get the responses they needed to their situations. There would probably have been more interest had people known about the earlier deadlines for 2024.

Emails to the "interested artisans" list was an effective way to make a personal connection to people not on the committee.

Cannabis seeds: There is no legal concern about selling seeds according to the ED. There are questions about how they would be juried...it would probably fall into the Esoteric category and be judged somewhat on the appearance of the packaging. Concerns about the efficacy and results of planting them are among the hesitation, as well as what door is possibly being opened. The craft world is seeming to trend more toward fine craft and less toward the homegrown/gathered crafts. It may confuse the stance of a drug and alcohol-free event. It's an outlier...there isn't anything like this. Other types of heritage or heirloom plant seeds would be less problematic. It seems like a craft that would not fill a booth. The most prominent reasons would be that it doesn't fit with the drug and alcohol policy, that seeds don't guarantee results, and that this would be somewhat like selling someone art-making materials rather than a piece of finished art. Other similar crafts should be looked at in making a recommendation. With selling plants, you can see what you are purchasing. The Fair is not a farmers' market, and this seems like an agricultural product.

No consensus was reached so it will be on the January agenda for a decision.

Guideline Changes: Adam rewrote a large portion of the craft-related guidelines so no separate submissions are required from Craft Committee. The changes in wording were reviewed. They will reduce confusion and repetition and clarify the ones that were unclear.

***Motion: Craft Committee supports the guideline changes made by Craft Inventory and extends our deep gratitude for the work done (Lucy/sue) 6-0-0

Update on booth space left uncleaned: no information available.

New Business: Budget Committee Proposed Change: The proposal is to do away with refunds for passes post-Fair with the goal to get people to stop over-buying passes and then asking for refunds. Refunds would still be available before "crunch week." This involves thousands of dollars and is not available to volunteers, just booth reps. With the earlier deadlines, this might result in more transactions later in the process for Booth Reg to handle. People would want their refunds; it doesn't seem fair to not allow them, at \$120 each. Perhaps a less-than-full refund would have the same effect. Refunds for day passes were already eliminated. If someone has to cancel, usually the booth is still utilized so fair would collect double and the person who had to cancel would be out the money, plus whatever they would have made at the event. Emergency reasons would still allow people to be eligible for refunds.

Work Tasks: The minutes will be the most essential task to cover. Scribes can have access to the zoom recordings. Perhaps the Volunteer Coordinator could be contacted to help find a scribe. They don't have to be stellar, just the basics would do.

Some tasks are at particular times, and some may not be essential or shift to crew coordinators. They are already overworking, though, as are Board members. Members should prepare to volunteer for tasks in January.

Meeting Evaluation: Thanks to Lucy for chairing a productive meeting. Thanks to Diane for her years of volunteering for the committee.

