

Attendance: Colleen Bauman, Jan Bullock, Caroline Dunn, Owen Van Hooser, Ritta Dreier, Elizabeth Eisenman, Sue Hunnel, Anna Lawrence, Teresa Pitzer Excused: Deb Huntley

Staff: Beth Little, Kim Still

Guests: Heather Storrs, Burma Storrs, Scott Norris, Deb Schussler, Tom Savelich, Tashubi, Michael Bertotti, Jennifer Hoover, Willy Gibboney

Introductions and Announcements: Colleen asked us to say our favorite customer service provided by Market as we said our names and Market affiliation:

Colleen: change at the info booth

Scott: opportunity for income

Diane: chairs

Heather: comics in the newsletter

Teresa: visa

Elizabeth: Kim and her abilities

Kim: the Saturday Market itself

Ritta: integrity of staff

Willy: food

Owen: change if needed

Jen: the way she's greeted

Deb: support

Michael: it's there for us

Caroline: security

Beth: happy to serve

Jan: camaraderie in the neighborhoods

Anna: Market itself

Sue: Info booth

Tashubi: info booth and security

Tom: services are good

Burma: Holiday Market

Colleen reminded people to turn off their phones. Anna said we would be open until five this season, and there will be laminated signs in people's envelopes. Deb thanked everyone for covering for her during her leave of absence.

Colleen: there will be a group photo taken of the Board for the website and Facebook, at the March meeting, if members are willing.

Agenda Review: Move Personnel to the end for the Executive session. Jan reminded people to keep their emotions stepped back, and suggested that we table the toy gun issue until it is less emotionally charged. Other members felt that since guests were here on the subject, that it would be okay to just go through it, keeping emotional control in mind.

Colleen added that there are a few ways to keep the heat down: address the chair, not each other, and take the time to make good decisions. Admire and respect each other as she does Jan for the suggestion.

Add "Professional Artists" into New Business

\*\*\*Motion: Accept the agenda (Teresa/Elizabeth) 8-0-0

Colleen requested that a Treasurer's Report be given at each meeting.

Pressing Member Issues: Michael Bertotti spoke to suggest that his recent feeling of mistreatment by the Standards Committee was the fault of the system, not individuals. He asked for a motion from the Board eliminating the Committee and going back to a simpler form of review of new products by staff. Volunteers are burdened by the responsibilities of it and staff is already involved so it would not add much extra staff time. Questionable items could be reviewed by an ad hoc committee convened by the Board when necessary. Complaints should be signed by three Board members, and accusations should be handled in more legal ways. Upon questioning he described the incident that disturbed him. He was not aware that the SC can close their meetings to consider individual products (it is in the bylaws).

Members felt that this is something that could be discussed at another meeting, as the agenda is too full tonight, but they do want to respond to Michael's concerns. Teresa apologized from the Committee about the meeting in question, and all were agreed that it was not being held at a good time and people were too tired, so the Committee will avoid meeting on a sales day during HM in the future. Beth suggested that the meetings don't always have to be closed to do that type of business, and the committee could vary their procedures to be more transparent, as that is one of our core values. Teresa will take the issue back to the Standards Committee.

Minutes Approval: Approve the minutes of the January 2 meeting.

\*\*\*Accept the minutes (Teresa/Jan) 8-0-0

To accommodate the guests, committee reports were moved farther down the agenda.

Mushrooms: Tashubi has been working with the Standards Committee to find procedures that will allow her to sell wild-gathered edible mushrooms in her existing booth. The regulations include inspection of the mushrooms by a certified inspector, and she has had indications that someone from the Cascade Mycological Society would be willing. She also wants to know if she can sell her wildcrafted jams and jellies. (She has been approved for the canned products as soon as she has the required labels and licenses).

Liability is the issue that brought this to the Board. At present Saturday Market does not insure vendors for product liability, although we are insured to be selling on the location. The issue of "ingestibles" is pertinent to other foods sold at Market. Most food booths have their own insurance, and that will be tightened up this season. Pre-packaged food vendors are not presently required to carry the insurance, but maybe they should be. (This is on the agenda for the next Standards meeting) Food vendors who use wild mushrooms in their items also need certifications for that.

\*\*\*Motion: Require mushroom sellers to have their own liability insurance with the Saturday Market listed as an added insurer (Teresa/Jan) 7-0-1 (Ritta)

Discussion: make this policy apply to all ingestibles. Move slowly to include everyone, just work with the mushrooms for now, until the Standards Committee makes a recommendation. Don't make our policies more stringent than the city or county. Market members should be notified that they are no longer covered for product liability (it is in the Vendor agreement.)

Tashubi has all the required paperwork and Staff can follow up on her compliance with the recommendations. She could join the Lane County Mycological Society and they will inspect. Beth can provide insurance information to anyone who wants to add a policy.

Toy Guns: Concern by a Market artisan who noticed toy guns at the Holiday Market brought up the idea of banning them. Discussion at the previous meeting indicated some differences of opinion. All toymakers were notified, and two woodworkers sent letters, and at least one other was in attendance. Present policy is that anything that shoots a projectile (marshmallows, rubber bands) must be sold in a sealed plastic bag, mostly to prevent kids from causing disruptions in the crowds. This issue has come up before.

Points of discussion included: A ban on a particular toy is going too far, when a bag can be used. The products meet the standards, and are not the only thing sold that may be offensive to some people. Banning products because of concerns that are in the news is a slippery slope...obesity is a problem too, for instance. The products aren't dangerous, and don't create a danger at our Market.

\*\*\*Motion: Ban toy guns (Teresa/Owen) Motion fails, 0-7-1 (Caroline)

Members noted that there are other ways to create feelings of safety at Market, such as Non-violent Communication, crisis intervention training, etc.

Standards Committee Report: Correction to the minutes: the date of the July meeting was changed from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Teresa gave the report of the January 9 meeting. This meeting was the annual Standards Review, when Beth went over all of the guidelines and examples in the handbook, as well as discussing Standards code of conduct, attendance policies, duties, attitudes and processes. The Board mandated that the SC find a way to screen items during HM 2013. Sue Theolass asked the record to show that it was sad when the Board decided this without consulting the people who would have to do the work.

Member issues included approval of a Saturday Market logo application for a handmade mug. They also elected co-chairs, planned a work schedule, and set meeting dates. Teresa reminded us to use the word "member" instead of "vendor" as it is more personal.

Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month, with an extra screening in March, and the moved date in July. The work schedule will be:

February: Prepackaged Foods

March: Animal Treats

April: Art Reproductions

May: TBA

June: Body Care  
July: TBA  
August: TBA  
September: set plan for HM and schedule for the rest of the year  
October: TBA  
November: TBA

A guest suggested that giclee prints without frames are fashionable now, and requiring frames put on by the artists may discourage people from selling the prints at all.

\*\*\*Motion: Adopt the Standards Committee report (Jan/Ritta) 8-0-0

Holiday Market Committee: Jennifer gave the report of the January 10 meeting. Several new members attended. They held a roundtable discussion about the comments from members, and shared ideas for improvement. The budget will now be done by the standing Budget Committee within the Saturday Market budget. Dropping the first weekend, or the Friday after Thanksgiving was discussed. All of the comments and suggestions from the feedback reports are compiled and available for review.

The wifi situation was better but will be addressed again.

They set a work plan for the year:

February: Dates and budget

March: promotions, entertainment, budget, advertising, social media, poster design

April: stage/decorations

May: officers election, vendor packets

June: vendor recruitment, reformat the tip sheets

August: leftovers

September or October: promotions.

Next meeting Feb. 13, 5 pm.

Administrative Report: Beth reported that the Standards Committee met for the annual review. Holiday Market Committee debriefed and planned for this year. The Kareng Fund is still in the training process and has removed Beth as a check signer so she can continue to act as bookkeeper. The Budget Committee met informally (not the full group) and recommended raising the season reserve fee from \$140 to \$150. This would help but not balance the budget. We have had to spend savings for operations for the past two years, and it would not be good business practice to continue to do this. They also suggested raising the Holiday Market fees by \$50 per space to balance the budget, but that was not yet a recommendation.

Joe and Kimberly reported on their January work (in writing) Caroline and Jan attended their Board Orientation. Food Court Committee and Sustainability will meet next week. All toymakers were notified about the toy gun issue. There is one member request for forgiveness for taking an extra vacation month in error.

Beth wants to know if it is a priority to pressure wash and seal the tents, even though it is expensive. Other small expenditures she would like to make are for a projector to do the orientation and workshops (about \$300) and to rent or buy some patio heaters to try.

Because we have Joe we can have enough supervision to be safe. People will stay longer if they can be warmer. She would also like to proceed with anchoring the fences along Oak as planned, which will add sidewalk space and look much better without using the trees as posts.

Beth and Kim have defined a process for online membership renewals. Reserve vendors will get a one-page mailing to return. Others will receive a large, colorful postcard asking them to renew in various ways from in person, online, or by mail or phone. All levels of computer abilities (and willingness to use them) will be addressed, but we will save a lot of paper and time by not sending out the traditional packet. Members were satisfied with the planned changes.

Board members and guests then entered into a fees discussion with the resulting motion:

\*\*\*Motion: Raise reserve fees to \$160 per year (Teresa/Elizabeth)

Discussion points: Other suggestions were to involve more volunteers, raise fees for corner booths, raise the daily fee to \$12, raise the membership fee. The last fee increase was in 2002. We are committed to low-cost starting up. Many other organizations charge \$65. Membership fees can be paid in four increments of \$12.50 each if needed. Raising the membership fee spreads the increase evenly. Remember all the services we listed at the beginning. People don't like to feel the increases every week (if the daily fee were raised.) Beth did prepare people for fee increases at the annual meeting. Lots of people have spent savings in this economy. We have a lot of savings. This will be hard on people who have no savings, and isn't needed. More cost-cutting and belt-tightening could be done.

The question was called.

\*\*\*Motion: Call the Question (Teresa/Jan) 8-0-0

Vote on the motion: 1-6-1 (Elizabeth) Motion fails

\*\*\*Motion: Raise the membership fees to \$50 (Teresa/Elizabeth)

\*\*\*Motion: Call the question (Teresa/Owen) 7-0-1 (Ritta)

Vote on the motion: 8-0-0 Motion passes.

Ritta spoke to remind people that the downtown is coming alive and this is encouraging. This is not the time to not move forward. This is an essential time for us. It is time to spend a little more to make the Market successful. Get the banners up proclaiming the Park Blocks as our home. Keep going forward.

\*\*\*Motion: Raise the reserve fee \$10 (Owen/Teresa)

Discussion: Raising the membership fee will gain around \$7000. Raising the reserve fee \$10 will gain an additional \$1800 (about). Holiday Market increases would be forestalled by raising the season reserve fee. Equality is one of our core tenets. Reserving is almost essential to be a serious craftsperson, and not everyone even makes \$100 in a day. We are some of the most successful vendors. A new idea is shared reserves for those who don't attend every week, both to free up space and increase income. You get the money back when Market improves promotions and attractiveness. Raising one fee is enough. Only operating costs should be funded by the raises, not more savings. Tax the rich more(reserve fees) rather than people who are struggling. It may be better to spread the increases more widely and make them smaller amounts.

\*\*\*Motion: Call the Question (Teresa/Jan) 8-0-0

Vote on the motion: All in favor 8-0-0

\*\*\*Motion: Accept the Admin report (Jan/Ritta} 8-0-0

Members spoke to say we want a strong market that can afford things, not a weak market. Proceed with getting the tents cleaned.

Point of Information: a member said that the process was not proper, no budgets were examined, and this was made through an admin report instead of as a separate agenda item. (It was in old business, and the Budget was carefully examined by the Budget committee and staff.)

Terms of Board Members: Interesting news: Our non-profit lawyer was asked about alternate Board members, and he said you can't use alternates. Either a Board member is voting, or not a Board member. This will need to be discussed at a future meeting. It would involve a bylaws change to eliminate the alternate position.

Diane displayed a chart which showed the problem we have with attempting to elect three board members at each election. Without an alternate, we would have nine directors. Three are already synched up, having been elected in December for their first terms. The expectation is that they can run for a second term. Three others are also synched up, having been elected in June, 2012. The other three need to be synched up too. If we decide to honor our present agreements, these extend out 24-36 months.

There is an additional glitch in electing three brand new first term directors together, when ideally you would have at least one member running for a second term at that election. That's a different problem.

The syncing up could happen by changing one term to either a 6-month term or a 24-month term, beginning in 6-2013. That's the easiest fix.

The second problem could be fixed by the natural process of someone not running for their second allowable term, or by electing two people (one in 6-15, one in 12-15) to one-term-only terms. This would be stated before the election and known by all concerned.

It is also a choice to not honor the second term commitment (with agreement from the members concerned) to move the solution up in time to a nearer date.

The issue was tabled to the next meeting. Teresa offered to resign now instead of finishing her term in June, and would plan to run again in June (if possible) or next January. This is only her first term in this position. She could run for her second term in June. This was also tabled to next month's agenda.

Retreat Planning: A human interaction training by Zak Schwartz would be life skills that would aid us in many ways. We would all have more abilities to intervene in situations on the Park Blocks or at HM. We could use Alice's at the OCF for free. Scheduling would be tough; it's already quite busy in the office. It would likely be held in the evening.

Our Kareng Fund nonprofit lawyer has offered a DVD of his Board training procedure which could be available to the SM Board.

Professional Artists: For members to be successful, they usually have to do larger shows, and when they miss markets they lose points, and gradually have a hard time keeping a reserve space or Holiday Market space. These artists are wonderful resources and good for Market but they are almost punished for their choices. There could be some ways to ease this by charging these artists more, sharing reserves, or some other idea. Reserve booths are generally rented in the absence of the reserved vendor, but still, those who come on the rainy days and pay the bills regularly need to be able to access the spaces and the HM. You could sublet a booth for the summer. Waiting for a space in the morning uses up at least an hour of valuable set-up time, and we don't want to push more people into that process, which is already arduous.

It's a balancing act. This will be placed on a future agenda.

Executive session: The Board held a session to discuss Personnel. No motions were made or discussed except a motion to adjourn.

\*\*\*Motion: Adjourn (Anna/Sue) All in favor 8:35 pm

