

Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild Board Minutes

January 6, 2020 – Held at Teresa Garland's home.

Present: Anne Flora, Michele Montour, Sharon McKenna, Anjanette Bunce, Carol Wineman, Susan Widawski, Teresa Garland, Mary Valerie Richter, Trish Ritchie, Cindy Harris, Audra Wenzlow, Bob Masta, Barb Schutzgruber, Marla Smith

President Anne Flora called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- A request for the March 2020 board meeting host was answered by Marla Smith.
- Anne requested that items for meeting agendas be relayed to her prior to meetings. Audra Wenzlow requested that a member of the Warped Weavers be allowed to make a short announcement about the group at the business portion of member meetings.

Ellen's Fund – The discussion of the disposition of Ellen's Fund will be ongoing and Anne requested the board think about ideas for implementation. It was suggested that suggestions be solicited for a special speaker and/or program, in Ellen's honor—perhaps at a non-meeting venue for the year 2021. The program could possibly involve the Michigan League of Handweavers (MLH) as well.

Marla Smith reported that the online sale of weaving/spinning accessories from Ellen's studio was a success with almost all of the items (including the two large looms) being sold. An updated list of the remaining items will go out to the membership prior to the January Meeting. The two spinning wheels, if unsold, will be offered on Craigslist on which Audra Wenzlow will take the initiative.

A thank you was given to Bob Masta for his generous donation of the contents of Ellen's studio to be designated for the benefit of the Guild.

Teresa Garland discussed the monetary status of the Ellen's Fund, stating that although the last tally was \$3184, she had acquired roughly \$2,000 more this evening from the online sale. With the upcoming wool sale at the January Meeting, it is projected that the Ellen's Fund will contain about \$6,000.

The Professional Development Fund – An application announcement will be going out this week with a March 1, 2020 application deadline. The fund has \$600 to disperse and applications will be discussed at the March Board Meeting.

Inclement Weather Policy Change – In light of the November meeting cancellation, a new Inclement Weather Policy will be updated on the AAFG website. After discussion, it was agreed that under the Inclement Weather Policy on the webpage new verbiage will indicate that if a meeting is to be cancelled, an announcement will be uploaded to the AAFG Facebook page by 2:00 p.m. the same day. Mary Valerie Richter will come up with the proposed wording for board approval.

February Meeting Venue Change – Zion Lutheran Church is holding their annual blood drive in Piper Hall on February 10, and we will not have access to our usual meeting place. After much discussion it was decided to hold the Guild meeting upstairs in a few different spaces made available to us by the church. Since there is not one speaker but small group discussions planned, it should be feasible. February meeting co-chairs Carol Furtado and Terry Voigt will work out the logistics.

Ann Arbor Artisans Market – Anne and Teresa reported that booth space for the Artisans Market has been procured for the year 2020 April-December. The \$300 fee will be borne by AAFG at no cost to members who choose to participate. There will be a jurying process and Susan Widawski expressed concern about timing and possible necessity of more jury sessions. That will be worked out later if necessary. Participants will be required to have their own sales tax license and be prepared to hand out AAFG literature. There will be an informational meeting prior to the January Meeting at 5:45 for all interested participants. Details are still being worked out, but potential sellers need to be members for 6 months before participating.

Programs/Workshops – Sharon McKenna stated that there was a cancellation for the March Workshop. Marla Smith will take the open spot. Sharon is working on having the cancelled November meeting program inserted into the vacant April 2020 meeting slot. There will be an “Introduction to Felting” workshop October 2-3, 2020 taught by Anne Flora at Helen Welford’s farm. Anne Flora also will offer, for the participants, an opportunity to dye silk for the workshop, to take place sometime mid-September at her studio.

Sharon is working on getting Laura Bryant for the October 2020 meeting.

Fiber Feast – Sharon McKenna said that Fiber Feast 2022 will be on April 9.

Treasurer - Teresa Garland reported on ongoing expenditures and budget for the guild. Currently, guild is on budget and in a healthy state. Final figures for the Holiday Sale: \$12,080 including tax; \$11,397 after sales tax. We cleared \$591 for the Guild. The treasury has \$18,227 in savings and \$12,363 in the checking account (which includes Ellen’s Fund and \$1,227 FAN funds.) Teresa is planning to use about \$2,000 of savings in fiscal year 2021 to compensate for the lack of income from not having Fiber Feast in that year.

Exhibits – Cindy Harris reported that the Power Center show will be in April. As an aside she also reported that we have an orphaned Ashford spinning wheel from the storage unit to sell. Marla will tack the description onto the online sale.

Jury – Susan Widawski reported that jury for Fiber Feast will be at Barb Schutzgruber’s on March 22 and jury for Sale items will be on March 8 at a place yet to be determined.

Publicity – Marla Smith confirmed that the Holiday Sale ad would go in the November Observer.

Membership – Trish Ritchie reaffirmed the procedure (as discussed in Anne Flora’s report), for the distribution of the membership survey and annual dues.

Holiday Sale – Barb Schutzgruber reported that the sale had less sellers, but more volunteers to work. The sale made about \$600 profit for the Guild. Most traffic was between 12-noon and 2:00 p.m. Almost all of the door prizes have been delivered. Date for 2020 Holiday Sale is November 14 and Carol Repasky and Agnes Soderbeck are co-chairing event.

Storage Unit – Barb Schutzgruber reported that all of extra Art Fair booth grids designated for sale are gone. If the booth itself is sold, the guild will be able to utilize a smaller storage space. Discussion ensued regarding the best way to sell the double wide booth and it was suggested that stores selling street items at Art Fair might be a better fit. Barb would like organizational contacts for the three fairs to proceed.

Publicity – Marla Smith reported nothing new for publicity, Ann Arbor Observer and schools are being notified for meeting notices. There was a discussion of the need for official information or contact info for the Artisans Market (as well as other Guild Public Events such as exhibits, sales, and the Cancer Center Project) to hand out to the public. A suggestion of business cards containing the Guild logo, meeting dates, and web page address was offered. This will be further discussed as the Artisans market plans evolve.

Website/Facebook – Mary Valerie Richter reported that Russian bots are being constantly removed from Facebook. The Website has been renewed for another three years and continues to be updated at monthly intervals.

Membership – Trish Ritchie reported 127 members and indicated that 23 members from last year had not renewed, despite emailed reminders. Trish will send a list to Sharon to purge those names from the roster. Sharon will keep those names in the central database for sales and events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Marla Smith