Fiber & Fiber Products Committee (FiberCom)

Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2016

Meeting: Conference Call — October 3, 2016, 8:00 p.m. EDT

Members: Stacy Heydt, Chair
Launda Soper, Secretary
B-J Ellis
Ruth Fuqua
Chris Reachard (absent)
Clarissa Wisner

Board Liaison: Norm Johnson

Staff Representative: Andrea Harrington

1.0 Meeting Opening: Meeting opened at 8:03 p.m. EDT.

1.1 Approve Minutes: Approval of minutes of last meeting, Launda made the motion to approve, Ruth seconded, motion passed.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 National Fleece Conference 2017 and 2018:

2017 venue is set. Primary focus is 2018.

Ideas & discussions: We discussed having fiber processing options at the 2018 conference such as a mill set up, a felting loom, a wet felting machine, etc., to give members processing options for their fiber. We also discussed adding more hands-on fiber art classes with 2 tracks one for beginners and one for intermediate level artists. We could offer 2 hour and 4 hours classes. Andrea will check the contract and get back to us with further information.

Andrea requested a list of topics and speakers by January, 2017. We will align our recommendations with the feedback from the membership's survey.

We want to develop a new survey to get event planning, venues, etc., ideas from the membership. B-J suggested we align our goals with the survey questions. We covered the proposed questions. Will discuss further. It was suggested that the survey go out before the holidays to get our replies in time. We need to make sure to let people know we appreciate the responses and feedback we've already received.

We stated that for the marketplace to be successful, we would like to bring in the public. We asked Andrea if the public would be able to come to shop. Andrea said she would check the venue map to ascertain if the public could get in or not.

We also discussed having a Fleece to Shawl competition. We will need to reach out to CALPACA for assistance on a local level for the Fleece to Shawl. B-J will contact CALPACA and request assistance.

2.2 National Halter Show 2017:

2.2.1 Project #1 Fiber Artist Marketplace:

We would like to do a Marketplace for this show. Andrea said there should be plenty of room to have a marketplace set-up. Norm said we should be able to get plenty of grid work and tables for displays from ABR. Andrea said we could have a 40 x 40 space for the Marketplace. B-J said our previous space was 20 x 20 and had about 200 items in it. We would need about 500 items to fill a 40 x 40. Norm wondered if we ought to limit the number of mail-in items. Norm wondered if we should have a superintendent for this project.

It was also discussed if adding a day to this show would help and if we should offer hands-on workshops on Friday.

2.3 Project #10 Fiber as a Business Brochure:

Andrea will check on the progress and status of this project and report back to us at the next meeting.

2.4 USAFC Fiber Council:

Norm let us know that they are making good progress. The website is being built and the agenda is being revamped. They are working on some brochures about pasture management, contaminants, standards, definitions, etc.

Norm said most customers at the National Fleece Conference are AOA members and that we need to focus on their needs first and foremost. The Board is searching for a new Director and things are moving along very well.

3.0 New Business: No new business.

4.0 Meeting Wrap:

4.1 Next Meeting: November 7, 2016, 8:00 p.m. EST.

4.2 Adjournment: Stacy made the motion to adjourn, B-J seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. EDT.