Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2016

Meeting: Special Meeting — Business/Operations, June 27, 2016, 6:00 p.m. EDT

Board of Directors: Bonnie Potter, President
Scott Miller, Vice President
Laurel Shouvlin, Secretary
Mike Vigus, Treasurer
Julie Delaney, Director
Don Greene, Director
Steve Hull, Director
Norm Johnson, Director
Andy Merriwether, Director

Executive Director: Darby Vannier

Delaney was late to the meeting which started at 6:02 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening: Meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. EDT.

1.1 Ratify Email Votes:

1.1.1 I move we approve the May 23rd minutes. (Motion: Miller / Second: Greene) Motion passed 9–0.

1.1.2 I move we approve the June 13th minutes. (Motion: Greene / Second: Johnson) Motion passed 7–0 (Shouvlin abstained, no vote cast: Delaney).

Motion to ratify the email votes was made by Hull seconded by Miller, and passed (8–0, Delaney absent).

2.0 Financial Report:

2.1 Financials: Vigus reported on the financials for the past month and year to date. Vannier noted that the registration and transfer income is down, but expenses are below budget, keeping the association on budget.

Delaney joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m. EDT.

3.0 Old Business:

3.1 Youth Handbook Committee: There were 10 excellent applicants who volunteered to serve on the committee. Miller moved and Johnson seconded that Susanne Bienenstock, Sarah Donahoe, Regina Eardley, Maryann Mahaffey, Karlee Orvis, and Nancy Rogers be seated on the committee. Motion passed unanimously (9–0).

4.0 New Business:

4.1 National Auction Discussion: Miller asked that the Board review the National Alpaca Auction due to a steady decline in sales and revenue generated over the last 10 years, bringing in less income for the association. Miller proposed that instead of using the same model for the National Auction to generate revenue, that we rely on other successful private auctions to serve as venues where donated lots can be sold with the proceeds going to AOA. Another proposal was submitted for a hybrid of the National Auction. The proposal was submitted hours before the meeting not allowing the Board adequate time for review, so the discussion was tabled to allow the Board to study the matter further to assist with the decision.

4.2 GIRCom Articles: Potter presented 2 installment of 3 articles submitted by GIRCom titled “Things To Consider When Starting An Alpaca Related Business.” These were authored by committee member Lynn Boak and are for distribution to the membership by eBlasts that will be spread out over time. The motion to send the articles was made by Shouvlin and seconded by Merriwether. The motion passed unanimously (9–0).

4.3 Letter from Members Regarding EPD Reporting: A letter was submitted by several members suggesting modifications to the EPD program and its reporting. The Board reviewed the suggestions and Potter will draft and letter of response to the members.

4.4 Revenue Task Force Recommendations: Miller and Greene had several proposals that the Task Force would like to have the Board consider. After reviewing those suggestions the Board took the following action:

4.4.1 Miller moved that the Board ask the SRC to institute the Best Head Competition as a new class to be offered at AOA Halter Shows. Greene seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (9–0).

4.4.2 Miller moved and Shouvlin seconded that the Board go into executive session to discuss a vendor-related business matter. The motion passed unanimously and the Board entered executive session at 8:06 p.m. EDT. Motion to leave executive session was made by Shouvlin, seconded by Miller, and the Board left executive session at 8:44 p.m. EDT.

5.0 Committee & Other Reports:

5.1 Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom): See item 4.2.

5.2 Judge Training and Certification Committee (JTCC): No report.

5.3 Judges Advisory Committee (JAC): No report.

5.4 Show Rules Committee (SRC): Shouvlin reported that the committee last met on June 2nd. The committee is putting finishing touches on the documents surrounding the Walking Fleece Competitions. The chairs and Show System Administrator Ault updated the committee on their meeting with members Sarah Donahoe and Ken Clark about Youth Halter Competitions.

5.5 Fiber and Fiber Products Committee: Johnson reported that the committee is still working on preparations for the National Fleece Show including the Student Design Competition which had excellent participation this year. The committee is completing the planning for the fleece to shawl competition and the AOA Member Store.

5.6 Alternative Products Committee: Miller reported that the committee has been reduced to 3 members. Miller would like to recruit some replacements for those members that have left. Vannier will retrieve the previous applications for the committee for the Board to review, as well as the purpose and goals for the committee.

5.7 Revenue Task Force: (see item 4.4) Miller reported that Pamela Ray, who last year presented an idea to the AOA Board to have a limited stud importation, has volunteered to gather more specifics about the cost of such an endeavor and how those alpacas would be made available to the membership.

5.8 Leadership Council: Waived.

5.9 AFNCA: Hull reports that the association has been struggling with cash flow. A plea went out to the members and the crisis has been temporarily averted. AFCNA will be attending the National Fleece Conference.

5.10 Executive Director's Report: Vannier reported on the following:

5.10.1 Election: The results will be known when the accountants report the first week of July.

5.10.2 Software Rollout: The mid-year software rollout has occurred and went fairly smoothly, and the DNA marker switch has been implemented. Discussion has now begun for the year end rollout.

5.10.3 2016 AOA National Fleece Conference: Almost everything is set for the upcoming conference. Space issues have been resolved making the event more comfortable for vendors and attendees.

5.10.4 Currently planning: 2017 AOA National Show & Auction, 2017 AOA National Fleece Conference, 2018 AOA National Show & Auction. Staff is working on the host hotel contracts. Vannier is awaiting proposals from the 2 potential host hotels for the 2017 National Fleece Conference. Staff is also working on locating a conference center for the 2018 halter show.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Contact the Board Update: Potter—nothing to report.

6.2 Action Items: Miller reviewed the action items for the next meeting.

6.3 Next Meetings: (July 11th—If there are board member changes, the 2015/2016 Board will complete all current business at this meeting) (July 22nd—Business Meeting face-to-face in Arlington, Virginia)

6.4 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Miller, and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. EDT.