Fiber and Fiber Products Committee Agenda
August 2, 2021
7:00pm Eastern, 6:00pm Central, 5:00pm Mountain, 4:00pm Pacific

Committee Members:
B-J Ellis
Alyssa Winterfeld (AOA Staff Liaison)
Ruth Fuqua
Karen Ball *not present
Wini Labrecque (BOD Liaison)
Elizabeth Taylor *not present
Elaine Gerber
Charlene Schmid (Committee Chair)
Clarissa Wisner
Dana Rhoades (Secretary)
Robin Gifford

1.0 Action: Call to order
- *Meeting called to order at 4:04 PST*

2.0 Action: June Meeting Minutes
- *Approval of June meeting (Charlene)*
- *Approval of Minutes (Elaine) (Clarissa, 2nd)*
- *Passed (Charlene)*

3.0 Action: July Meeting Minutes
- *Approval of July meeting minutes (Charlene)*
- *Approval of Minutes (Elaine) (Clarissa, 2nd)*
- *Passed (Charlene)*

4.0 Discussion: Fiber Extravaganza 2022
- *Natural Fiber Extravaganza 2022-Name to be determined*
  - *Potential New Location (Charlene)*
    - *Kentucky Area*
    - *Fecals, Free Venue, Wet Felting, Affiliate Network, Farmers Market*
    - *Close to Ohio, OSU Camelid Program, Educational Opportunities*
    - *Fiber Committee to determine how to sell fiber after show*

        - *Submit fleeces to be sold at alpaca fleece, quality ensured by judges. How to best move fiber.*
    - *Why are we doing it, What do we hope they learn (Robin)*
    - *Task Force vs. Fiber Committee? (Wini/Robin)*
        - *Committee to make recommendations to the Task Force. Committee to make recommendations to the BOD.*
        - *Prevent duplicative efforts.*
        - *Task force is event-specific.*

5.0 Discussion: Committee member terms

- Judges Certification Training (Charlene/Robin)
    - *End of Year to rotate to ensure enough volunteers.*
    - *Rotation terms based on month.*
- Fiber Committee (Wini)
    - *Non-specific dates/month*
    - *Staggered in/out rotations*
    - *Oldest rotated or start fresh now*
    - *Committee would submit to BOD for approval of individuals to serve 3 years. Y/N. Term starts as of that month/year. One year rotational.*
    - *A lot of long-term committee fibers yet need historical experience/perspectives, rotate on schedule*
- Policies (Robin/Wini)
    - *FC approves terms and submit to the board for approval. 3 years as of that date would end 2nd term.*
    - *One year leave and can rejoin committee*
    - *Follow procedure answer: why they should be on committee for 3 years before submission to BOD*
    - *One-year leave, consultant*
    - *May indicate desire to rejoin or step away for a year. Or keep you as a consultant for a specific task/project.*
    - *Quarterly phase-out*

What might transitions look like?

- Who might we invite to join?
    - *Re-address previous applications? Pull previous applications.*
    - *Discussed recruitment from Mill Industry*
    - *Variety of perspectives but balanced - textile business*

6.0 Update: AOA Board Update, Wini

- No BOD updates

7.0 Discussion: Next projects

- *Selling fleece at the national shows*
- *Student Design Competition*
  - *Schools open w/ in-person classes*
  - *Send announcements for involvement*
  - *Need yarn, roving, felt, at least 50% alpaca*
  - *Send fiber to Ruth*
  - *Sponsorship Opportunities*
    - *Sponsor Winner or Level, 1st place textile entry*
    - *Setup sponsorship level w/ suggested donations*
    - *Underwrite competition vs. sponsorship of kid*
    - *Scholarship*
    - *Enough professors, not enough money*
    - *Funds support scholarship, winner travel/accommodations, shipping supplies*
    - *Limit travel expenses, provide travel stipend. Flight/hotel currently paid for. ⅓ fly, ⅔ drive.*
    - *Best to bring them to the show to network w/ industry*
    - *Goal to attract new designers to alpaca*
    - *Taps into expanding fiber where demand could grow*
    - *Donations for projects during membership renewals*
    - *Passion of affiliates/supporters*
    - *Future designers*

- Next steps toward commodity—
  - "Action 2: Establish Alpaca fiber as a commodity
    (1) Work with Wini to determine steps
    (2) Fiber on commodity list Q4 –
    - *Q2 2021 Wini already has information gathered to start the process.*
      Started in 2014. USDA guidelines likely haven't changed.

        - *Wini will follow-up re: requirements, get commitments to fiber buyers to share information*
        - *Charlene will e-mail resources, Market news results/ history to committee*

    - *Motion to Close (Elaine)*
    - *2nd Motion to Close (Dana)*
    - *Meeting adjourned 5:07 PST*
    - *Next Meeting September 13*

8.0 Open Discussion: