

Attendance: Paulette Richards, Maria Moule, Kelly Durian, Julia Garretson, Alex Lanham, Willy Gibboney, Paula Gourley

Staff: Kimberly Cullen

Recorder: Diane McWhorter

Other Participants: Colleen Bauman, Chava Kronen, Rege Shaw, Cody Shaw, Jaylin Jackson, Teresa Pitzer, Alan Pointer, Sheila Pointer, Craig Butler, Eve Pagliaro, Lisa Ponder, Chuck Roehrich

The meeting was held as a potluck gathering and regular business was suspended, including committee and other reports. Introductions including thanking at least one other member for something positive, happy or joyous appreciated by each attendee. The sense of the meeting showed that we are a helpful and hard-working community.

Announcements: Paula reported that the “I Spy Elves” promotion was a spectacular success at bringing customers to the artists. Customers want fun, and many shared their thoughts about how well it worked for their families. It was suggested that the fashion theme days be more widely publicized as the public wants to participate.

Board Elections: The elections will be held December 12th and 13th and there are five candidates running: Paulette Richards, Teresa Pitzer, Alan Pointer, Eli Mazet, and Gary Becker. Candidate statements and ballots are available at HM.

The Kareng Fund: Alex announced that the fundraising season will include the Auction with Percussive Interludes and Art Bingo. The first public event was Art Bingo last February and in addition the Rex Foundation gave a grant of \$5000 to the fund. Over 50 grants have been given over the past decade. The generosity of the community is very much appreciated. There are funds to give away to those in need. Low-income self-employed artisans in Oregon are the focus of the grants.

Standards Committee: Teresa spoke to remind everyone that the Standard Committee is tasked by the Board to review the standards and screen new products and artists. They regularly meet the third Wednesday of every month at 5:00 in the office (screening is before the meeting) and also screen before the Board meetings on the first Wednesday. In January the committee will undergo the annual review of standards and sign their code of conduct. Topics for discussion in the coming year will include the definition of handcrafting and the effects of new technologies like 3-D printing on our Market. We have a range of art from the completely handmade to those embellishing more machine-made items. All are welcome to attend the committee meetings.

Sustainability: Teresa said that despite meeting infrequently the committee has done many worthy things such as working with staff to drive the durables program that keeps utensils out of the waste stream and putting the waste sorting program in place. They are still looking for someone to run a Valet Bike Parking program and someone to deliver ice to the food booths. Staying current with the new information about appropriate technologies is a constant effort, so if this is your interest area please join the committee.

Food Court Committee: Colleen reported that several new members from the younger generation have brought new energy to the committee and doubled its membership. The Food Circle is the dining room and kitchen of our Market and staff works hard to support that, so thank them, especially the people who sort our garbage on the Park Blocks. The committee works with staff to solve operational issues that come up periodically. Promotional projects such as the photos of food booths with farmers have been greatly successful. They work with the Standards co-chairs to approve new products. Over 4000 plastic forks are saved from the waste stream every month due to the food booths' dedication to sustainable practices.

Holiday Market Committee: Alan reported that most of the work of the committee is done for the year, with the successful Elves project. There are always suggestions to be made to practices during the event that will be incorporated into next year's work. The evaluation meeting will be January 6th at 1:00 pm. Members complaining about issues are directed to the Committee to give their feedback and join in forming solutions or doing research. One suggestion for a promotion is to have each artist bring a tool that they use in their craft for customers to learn about. Elf Bingo was also suggested.

Market Street Team: Kelly reported that this group will be meeting in January and those interested should indicate that on the sign-up sheet in the vendor center. No commitment is required at this time, but do spread the word about the project.

State of the Market Address: Kimberly reported that meeting at such a busy time speaks volumes about our passion and commitment to the organization and investment in the community. Overall it was a good year with some challenges. This year began with facing the issue of the Fire Marshal's advisory about anchoring all vendor tents. Communicating this during the offseason was a challenge. Purchasing a large quantity of bags to be made by a member-owned company filled the need for affordable bags for our vendors and the Board passed a policy requiring all tents to be weighted, which increased the safety of all of those who attend our Market, and prepared us for whatever regulations are put into place by the city and county. The advisory will be revisited in the spring.

There was a renewed interest in members serving on the Board and Committees. New members joined the Board, Food Court Committee and the emerging Street Team. Creating a public marketplace brings exposure to the realities of our location, the press, and our relationships with the public. Hard work by the EPD on illegal activities and the presence of unpermitted sales across the street are continuing issues for us to deal with. Scent in the marketplace became a big issue and we are not alone in dealing with workplace issues such as this. Compassion and reasoned listening and creative solutions and cooperation led us through into a better future.

The hot and dry summer weather had a large impact on our vendor population for at least five Saturdays, particularly our aging vendors, but we were joined by many new and younger members at the same time. There is good retention of these new members, with 375 members selling at the Holiday Market, the same number as in 2014, and overall member numbers are almost the same at 556 compared to 561 last year. The only fee increase was the Food Booth absence fee from \$20 to \$25 which was balanced by two free absences for food booths, beginning in 2016. The season began with a

mix of new and experienced staff, and some staff members left to pursue other opportunities and new people were hired.

Promotions such as the Cigar Box Guitar Day and the downtown Halloween event were successful. Regular meetings continued with the LCFM and we will be included in discussions of the year-round market concept in discussion by the city and county. The Holiday Market is running smoothly, with 180 customer participants in the Elf project. A Holiday Market subcommittee is forming to research contract options regarding stock load-out.

Looking forward, she will continue to work closely with community partners toward shared goals and listen to our Board and membership community to shape our own future. We will work together to address our marketplace in a changing environment, serve the various needs of our membership, welcome new generations of vendors and remain relevant and fiscally sound as we continue to lay plans and take action for our future. Your Board of Directors is thoughtful and collectively has the varied perspectives, experiences, creativity and commitment to serve them (and you) well as they carefully consider consequences to proposed policy changes in the coming year. There is a good mix of history and fresh lenses to evaluate current issues and topics with good balance.

We took a moment to acknowledge the sorrow of the passing of Cheri Smith and to celebrate the joy of new life in three members' babies born; as well as, the wedding of market members Heather Storrs and Scott Norris. We are individuals who are independent and yet together we create something bigger than the sum our parts. We are community, we are creativity, we are strength, we are leaders and we are love. Every day is a day to make a difference, a day to reach out to others, or to reach inside ourselves to be the best we can be, and to be the best Saturday Market.

Questions were directed to the January meetings or to Kimberly.

Awards: Volunteer of the Year: A lot of people give and many deserve the award but one person stood out, Mary Newell. Thank you to Mary for helping with the storage shed move and the Elf project, and for many dedicated efforts for the community.

Next meeting January 6, 2016.

After meeting note: A copy of the State of the Market Address, in full (minus the ad lib), is available through the market office.