Standards Committee Meeting Minutes May 20, 2015

Attendance: Teresa Pitzer (chair), Lynn Brown, Alan Pointer, Sheila Pointer, Paulette Richards, Paula Gourley, Deb Huntley, Shawnna Holmes

Staff: Kimberly Cullen Recorder: Diane McWhorter

Guests: Michael Wares, Dennis Westfall

Please note: Items may not appear in consecutive order as they were addressed at the meeting, but may have been rearranged for clarity. Points of discussion are statements of individual members and not necessarily the consensus of the whole committee.

Introductions and Announcements: Dennis is planning to rejoin the Standards Committee. Kimberly is now emailing the minutes and agenda to members before the meeting. Is this an improvement? (Yes, the committee members appreciate it.) The starting time for meetings will now be 5:00. (Screenings will still follow the orientation).

Leave of Absence: This meeting would be Bryon Hummel’s third absence and he’d be removed from the committee, but giving him a leave of absence would prevent that. He would just have to attend one meeting before resuming his voting member status. In addition, since he is interested in the Art Reproductions issue, it could be postponed until a meeting when he can attend (July or August).

***Motion: Give Bryon a Leave of Absence. (Paulette/Paula) All in favor 8-0-0.

Non-Profit Sales: the Board will be discussing the issue and because the Holiday Market and Standards Committees gave different recommendations, people who feel strongly should make sure to attend the Board meeting. It would be appropriate for the GM to make a proposal for a workable solution that would combine the two sets of recommendations.

Prepackaged Foods: The Cannery, Michael Wares: Michael owns and is the chef at his restaurant The Cannery where he also sells his canned goods (Sauerkraut, Whiskey-Ginger Pickles, Giardiniera, Strawberry Rhubarb Jam.) He has employees as servers but only one kitchen worker and Michael himself does much of the prep and is the only one licensed to do the canning and preserving. He does purchase the ingredients as locally as possible. He estimates he does 95% or more of the work to make these products. He often uses a knife and is always present for all of the canning. He plans to stay small and hands-on. He wants to be the seller as he feels he can best present his products and convey his passion for them to the customers. His recipes are simple and straightforward but the attention to pH and spices and the fermentation process add up to a special product. He uses a water bath canner rather than a pressure canner. He plans to add dilly beans and other products. His samples would all be given using compostable and sustainable utensils and dishes. All of his licenses are in order and his labels are FDA-approved.

Discussion: When you eat in the restaurant you can tell it is a small operation tightly run by the chef (Michael.) Committee members were pleased with the tastings. He seems to be a craftsman offering a handcrafted product.

***Motion: Accept Mike’s Cannery (Paulette/Shawnna) All in favor 8-0-0.
Pressing Member Issues: none

Agenda Approval: Approve the agenda as it stands. (Paula/Alan) All in favor 8-0-0.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 15. Change the last sentence to read: “Members may survey the Market to see if they notice any activities that may warrant a Notice of Concern.”

***Motion: Approve the minutes as amended. (Lynn/Paula) Motion passed 6-0-2. (Shawnna, Paula)

Administrative Report: There were two notices of concern. One was a duplication issue in the Food Court which was resolved by the co-chairs of the Food Court and Standards Committees with a stand-in for one of the FC co-chairs. After careful deliberation they decided that it was not a duplication. The second was for a jeweler who had been previously informed about adding significant handwork to some large agate slices, and that person was reminded of the requirement.

***Motion: Accept the Admin report (Lynn/Alan) All in favor 8-0-0.

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Soap Guidelines/Scents Policy: The craft-specific guideline should be rewritten to be more specific about the use of commercially-made bases.

***Motion: Extend the phrase: No commercially made bases a.k.a. “melt and pour” soap bases and variations thereof are allowed. (Paula/Deb H.) All in favor 8-0-0.

There was a letter from a member asking for stricter guidelines for scented products. Many people are sensitive to them, and it is a problem for neighbors who must breathe them all day. Moving members to other locations has sometimes worked but a broader solution is desired that would prevent neighbor relations from being disturbed. Candles, soaps, and dried flowers and potpourris, as well as heat packs and other products all use scents and some have been issues in past Markets. Wood finishes can be strongly scented. Rather than singling out members it might be advisable to publish a general suggestion in the newsletter or a letter to all sellers of scented products.

General solutions for all scented products could include reducing the amount of product on display, and covering or boxing stored surplus product. Products on display could be wrapped or otherwise contained in cases or boxes. In the case of soaps, it isn’t good for handcrafted soaps to be wrapped in plastic, but it was suggested that strongly scented soaps could be wrapped in paper. Aged soaps gradually smell less strong, so perhaps some soaps are being offered for sale before they are properly aged. Aging takes 6-8 weeks at minimum, and soaps continue to harden and be more stable as they age. Perhaps the irritant that is bothering people is raw lye from inadequate curing. Essential oils and other ingredients could be cheaper ones that are made with synthetic chemicals. Members could be encouraged to think again about using intensely scented ingredients. Wood finishes need to be properly dried before the products are brought for sale.
Adding an aging requirement for soap is recommended. Fragrance issues can be further discussed at the June meeting. The Facebook group is a place where a discussion could be held about strategies for reducing the impact of scents on neighbors. Dennis volunteered to write a draft of a newsletter article. Paula will post something on the Facebook members’ group site. Kim should be notified at the time so she can monitor it.

***Motion: Add to the specific craft guidelines “The Saturday Market requires your soap be cured a minimum of six weeks.” (Lynn/Deb H.) All in favor 8-0-0 Add as the third paragraph.

Prepackaged Foods Guidelines Revisions: The preface was rewritten for clarity and to assure that all of the licenses are in order before the person brings the products for screening. The Committee recommends the following change:

***Motion: Add to the specific craft guidelines for Prepackaged Food in Craft Booths: “The Market requires that you be prepared to present the Standards Committee with complete documentation including the appropriate Health Department license for your kitchen, Food Handler Card, Proof of Insurance, and product labels that meet State and Federal regulations when you appear to screen your product.” (Lynn/Paulette) All in favor 8-0-0.

Discussion Topic: Healing services and psychics: This is on the schedule to be discussed in October but a preliminary discussion might aid members in seeing what is presently being offered at the Market. The guideline for services is already covering customer safety and licenses. Massage therapists may need more specific regulations. They must have their own liability insurance policy and display their license. More esoteric practices might need good signage making sure they don’t make any medical claims or misleading advertising. Some services might be just fine without more regulation, such as people who do readings or sonic therapy. These aren’t invasive and don’t have the potential to cause bodily harm. Perhaps the committee is ready to put this on the agenda for the June 17 meeting. Practitioners could be invited to come to the meeting and educate the committee. Committee members should keep minds open to alternative forms of healing.

***Motion: Adjourn (Lynn/Sheila). All in favor.