Standards Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Lynn Brown (chair), Teresa Pitzer, Sheila Pointer, Alan Pointer, Paula Gourley, Dave Lee, Deb Huntley, Sue Theolass

Guests: Dennis Westfall, Sandra Miles, Joe Blakely, Kevin Vernoy, Vyrula Demys

Staff: Kimberly Cullen  Recorder: Diane McWhorter

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. The Standards Committee Chair does vote on motions.

Introductions and Announcements: Introductions around the room. Dennis is not intending to join the committee. Shawnna has missed five meetings this year so has resigned.

Agenda Approval: Move the book issue up to Pressing Member Issues. Add set HM meeting time to New Business.

***Motion: Approve the amended agenda (Teresa/Alan) All in favor 8-0-0.

Prepackaged Foods:

1. Kevin Vernoy, Mohawk Organics: Kevin is already approved for hemp bags and wire trees but wants to add his packaged raw foods. He sells vegan, organic, gluten-free, non-GMO snacks. He has a licensed home kitchen bakery. Would also like to sell sprouted foods which require refrigeration.

2. Vyrula Demys, Gaia Vegan Organic Desserts: She is combining her business with Kevin’s, and has a menu of raw foods (pizza, wraps, truffles, etc.) and dehydrated foods she would like to sell. She uses a commercial kitchen. She brought cookies and bars to screen.

Discussion: They haven’t yet produced their licenses and their final version of the labels. The raw pizzas and wraps would need to be screened.

***Motion: Accept Kevin’s cookies and crackers and like products (Teresa/Paula) 8-0-0 All in favor, items approved. Contingent on the license info required. Does not include sprouts.

***Motion: Approve Vyrula’s cookies and bars contingent on her providing labels and license as required. (Teresa/Sue) 8-0-0 All in favor, items approved.

Carryover Screenings: 1. Joanna Cross, Mixed media decorated objects: Glues charms, shells and small objects she makes from polymer clay to boxes, decorative tiles, copper bracelets. She fills little trays with objects and resin to make pendants and magnets. She has the bracelet blanks bent for her. Glass pendants are made from decorative paper glued to the back of glass blanks.
Discussion: Since there were many items they were considered separately. The collage guideline was reviewed, as some of the items appeared to make an artistic statement and a new visual experience.

***Motion: Accept the glass magnets (Teresa/Sue) 0-8-0 Motion failed, items not approved.

***Motion: Accept the candleholders (Dave/Paula) 5-2-1 Motion passed, items approved.

***Motion: Accept the boxes (Teresa/Sue) 0-6-2 Motion failed, items not approved.

***Motion: Accept the tiles (Teresa/Sue) Motion rescinded.

***Motion: Accept the rest of her work (Sue/Teresa) 0-6-2 Motion failed, items not approved.

Discussion: She didn’t gather the seashells, and most of the objects were commercial charms widely available. The bracelet blanks were not handmade by her. Her work is going toward collage but not quite making it to an artistic statement. The member contribution does not outweigh the commercial components.

***Motion: Call the question (Teresa/Sue) 7-0-1 Motion passed, vote on the motion held with no further discussion.

2. Shanna Trumbly, Decorated Caps: Shanna uses paints, stencils, and fabric made with her designs (online) to decorate commercial hats. She adds rivets to the bills. She is asking for an exception to the Hats guideline.

Discussion: Many people have tried to screen hats and there are people making baseball caps by hand now. Only two people still have exceptions to the guideline. Despite the appreciation of her layered work, the hats are still commercial “trucker’s hats.”

***Motion: Accept Shanna Trumbly’s hats (Dave/Sue) 0-6-2 Motion fails, items not approved.

3. Amanda Ponvert, Jewelry: Some of the screened jewelry is being reviewed: necklaces with one bead on a chain, and earrings with a single bead. The ear wires and bail are handmade.

***Motion: Accept the earrings (Teresa/Sue) 7-1-0 Motion carried, items approved.

***Motion: Accept the simple necklaces (Teresa/Sue) 0-8-0 Motion failed, items not approved.

4. Pat Edwards, poetry books: Pat is the managing editor of two poetry collections from the quarterly newspaper she edits, Groundwaters. At least one poem is hers. She is a writer and facilitates the collecting and editing of others’ works as a way to help them get published. She wrote an extensive analysis of the guideline issues for published books of this type to help the Standards Committee work through the issues. She would like to sell the poetry collections with the already approved books she made with author Jo Brew. She is planning to share a booth with Joe Blakely at Holiday Market for just this year.
Discussion: The Committee needs to examine the definition of handcrafted when it comes to items like these. While the editor does a lot of work and sees this as handcrafting, it is different from the type of crafts generally made. Supporting small presses can be a goal but a handcrafted book is made from scratch with paper, binding, etc. The computer is the tool used on these books but the product is far different from an actual handcrafted book. When the author is present the commercially published books are allowed, but when the author is not present the products are a step removed. Authors are asked to sign their books. Creating the commercially printed books does take craft, knowledge and skill and the editor’s name goes on the book. The committee will place the discussion on their agenda for 2016.

***Motion: Accept the Groundwaters books as presented (Sue/Dave) 0-6-2.

Minutes Approval: minutes of September 16, 2015.

***Motion: Approve the minutes of the September meeting. (Sue/Teresa) All in favor 8-0-0.

Administrative Report: Two approved prepackaged food makers have not yet produced their paperwork and have not sold. One notice of concern was filed and items were removed from sale.

***Motion: Accept the Admin report (Teresa/Alan) 7-0-0 (Sue was out of the room)

New Business: Schedule a meeting in the first week of December. The meeting was set for Thursday December 3 at 4:00. Diane volunteered to help with the Board packets that week.

The Annual Standards Review was set for January 6 at 1:00 pm.

Screening Subcommittee: if the committee agrees, this smaller group could approve any prepackaged foods that come in after the last screening. An extra screening has been added on November 11 at 5:15 but there is not a full committee meeting in November.

***Motion: The screening subcommittee will be allowed to screen prepackaged foods for Holiday Market (Sue/Sheila) 7-0-1

Toys at Market: There have been neighbor complaints about the balloon balls being sold on the west block. They are tested by the customers and often kids play with them there and in other locations of the Market. The guideline for projectiles (“shooting products”) requires selling in a bag with the instructions to play with it at home. The phrase could be added “objects that fly through the air.” There are other issues with kids playing on the walls that won’t be covered in the guideline. Discussion at a future meeting can be scheduled.

Report from the Board meeting: The Board approved the Scent and Sound guidelines as they were rewritten and held a vote on approving pipe sales which did not pass. Further discussion is expected at the next meeting. The committee noted a “makers” fair which defines makers quite broadly.

Old Business: none

Adourn: 7:00 pm.