Standards Committee Meeting Minutes    February 17, 2016   4:15 pm

Attendance: Paulette Richards (Chair), Teresa Pitzer (co-chair), Paula Gourley, Lynn Brown, Sheila Pointer, Alan Pointer, Sue Theolass

Staff: Kimberly Cullen               Recorder: Diane McWhorter

Guests: Shawnna Holmes, Kim Allen, Jeff Allen

Please note: Points of discussion are statements of individual members and not necessarily the consensus of the whole committee.

Introductions and Announcements: Around the room. Shawnna, Kim and Jeff all announced their intention to join and that this was their second consecutive meeting. Voting rights may be given at the next meeting if they attend. The Kareng Fund Art Bingo was a great success and it will be held again next year. Member Chelyce Chambers is acting in the play “Disenchanted” downtown.

Teresa reported for the Sustainability Committee that Saturday Market is looking for a person to haul the compost to Rexius after the Market each week (Sunday or Monday). This could be done with a pickup truck or using the Market’s trailer, which would require secure storage during the week.

Agenda Review: Take off Prepackaged Foods and Carryover Screening (in two locations).

***Motion: Accept the agenda (Teresa/Alan) All in favor 7-0-0

Minutes Approval: no changes

***Motion: Approve the minutes of January 6th, 2016 (Lynn/Sue) All in favor 7-0-0

Pressing Member Issues: Sue Theolass: Sue suggested that meetings in the room might be less stressful if the lighting was adjusted and some art or other pleasant-looking items were added to the walls. There are posters waiting to be hung. Perhaps some lamps in the corners would help. The overhead lights were then turned off, leaving two smaller banks of lights that were adequate and did seem to relax the mood. Someone could do a little research on the cost of lamps to take to the Budget Committee, which will meet next on March 8th.

Paula Gourley: suggested that kits be discussed as they are becoming widely available, such as the sale of “everything” needed to make soaps, making it easy to set up a handcrafting business. Some of the screening questions could be used to reveal kit use. A list of questions could be generated for many screening areas, leading to a notebook of craft procedures to assist when experts are not available on the committee. Paulette agreed to put together such a notebook and asked members to send her info about their craft procedures.

Shawnna Holmes: suggested inviting a glass artist to join the committee and will investigate the possibility.

Administrative Report: Kimberly brought a complaint from HM regarding the sale of bear teeth and claws. Research indicated that such items acquired legally were also legal to use and sell in Oregon. There is a wide variety of fake claws and teeth available to buy and they are not easy to distinguish from real ones.
***Motion: Accept the Admin report (Teresa/Lynn) All in favor 7-0-0


Scents: Discussion of possible concerns: additional restrictions are needed, enforcement of the current guidelines are needed, restrictions placed on one maker should be extended to all, and further protection is needed for the chemically sensitive members and the public. Other crafts with scents besides soap include candles, wood products, and all products containing herbs or fragrances. Customer complaints also deserve a response.

Additional restrictions might include wrapping all soaps (plastic would not be suitable for all types), fewer or smaller displayed items, covers for displays, transparent containers for products, and more education to members about curing times, specific ingredients, etc. Lye, for instance, can be bought in hardware stores in the form of drain cleaner, which includes other ingredients not suitable or necessary for soap. Tissue paper wrapping helps with both hygiene and scent issues.

A letter could be sent to all makers of scented products, either to make sure they are aware of the problem and the suggestions for improvement, or to additionally invite them to a Standards Committee meeting. Traditionally all members making products under discussion have been invited to give their input. It was decided that a letter to soap makers will be sent, (drafted by Kimberly after receiving lye info from Paula) as well as an invitation to all members in the newsletter for the April 20th meeting for a discussion of scents and their issues. The April agenda item of Balls and Flying Objects will be moved to March.

A bigger room was suggested. Paula will research using a room at the library.

Enforcement is hard to judge fairly as opinions differ on how stringently it should be applied, and evenness and fairness are large considerations. There is no way to make everyone happy about the presence of scents, as some people complain about the food smells as well. Still, the level of education can be raised and enforcement can be spread more widely if education does not improve the situation.

Sound: no action or discussion needed at this time.

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Pipes: Several adjustments to the current policy were discussed. These included: No more than 25% of stock would be pipes; one display case of no more than 2’x2’ footprint could be used, or alternatively, a 2’x2’ space on a table higher than 48” could be used. Exceptions could be requested for large art pieces that wouldn’t fit in the case. Concerns were that children might handle the pipes, that customers would be uncomfortable, and that booths full of nothing but pipes would not look right in our market.

Discussion: moved toward realistic views of how enforcement could be achieved. Figuring out the percentage of stock would be difficult and subjective, as well as changing over the selling day. Fear seems to be driving the restrictions and most of the fears have not materialized. No other artists are told how to arrange or limit their craft displays. Members sell items used for alcohol use and no one seems offended by those. Parents and kids don’t appear to have problems viewing different types of art. Cases are expensive and fragile to transport. The 2’x2’ footprint is too small to display the types of expensive bongs being made these days. Vendors interpret the
proposed guidelines differently no matter how clear they seem. Putting items in the back of the booth is likely to suppress sales.

Motions were proposed:

***Motion: Send the recommendation to the Board that the only restriction on pipes be that they be displayed 48” above the ground (Teresa/Sheila) Friendly amendment: make it 36” Motion withdrawn.

***Motion: Recommend to the Board that there be no restrictions on pipes (Teresa) Failed for lack of second.

Discussion: Ask that the display be inaccessible for children. The point has to be included that pipes can be sold only for legal drugs (no crack pipes). Make the percentage of stock 50%. The age restriction must be included. Conversations with those who were concerned before HM indicated that they did not see what they had feared (offended customers, the presence of the marijuana-positive culture in an overwhelming way, children at risk) In the screening process artists can be encouraged to sell other types of glass art besides pipes. Most glass artists would be interested in attracting a wider array of customers. Waiting to see what problems develop might be a good strategy.

***Motion: **Recommend to the Board** that the guideline read: Pipes: No pipes or smoking devices for illegal drugs may be sold. Sales to customers 21 and over only. (Lynn/Teresa) All in favor 7-0-0.

New Business: Plants: A nursery license may be required for those who grow and sell plants if their income from them is over $250. It runs from June 30th to June 30th so we could allow sales without it between April and July if it were a hardship. A letter will be sent to advise people to check the regulations and be sure they are in compliance. While SM does not enforce regulations, the organization must notify members to be doing the due diligence of compliance.

Discussion: Generally the value of the item is in the handmade container, not the plant, thus many of our members could be under the $250 limit. The regulations did not seem clear. More research will be done before the letter is sent so that it will be correct, necessary, and applicable to the members contacted, and if necessary, the guidelines will include this information.

There was a reminder that products cannot make claims of healing properties without violating FDA rules. The word “organic” can also not be used without certification. These cautions will be mentioned in the newsletter.

Meeting Evaluation: The dimmed lights seemed to help. The meeting was productive and stuff got done. A display case of crafts with rotating exhibits would show off who we are.

Next meeting: March 16th. Screening begins at 4:15 after the orientation for new members. Additional screenings will be held on March 2nd, and March 30th. The orientation on the 30th will be covered by Kim Still, with backup by Paulette, so that Kimberly can be free to finish up the fiscal year. Sue announced that she will not be able to attend the March 16th meeting.