

Attendance: Teresa Pitzer, Alex Lanham, Alan Pointer, Sheila Pointer, Kim Allen, Jeff Allen

Excused: Paulette Richards, Sue Theolass

Staff: Kimberly Cullen, Courtney Kauffman

Recorder: Diane McWhorter

Guests: Jill Krol, Sarah Krol, Brooke Thompson, Lexi, Shyvonne

Introductions and Announcements: People mentioned things that grounded them. A member sent a thank you for the decision to be less restrictive about commercial frames. Members wanting to join the committee: none

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. All approvals are pending the provision of all required licenses, labeling requirements, and payment of fees in a timely manner.

Agenda Approval: Add transition plan to New Business

***Motion: Approve the agenda (Alex/Alan) All in favor 6-0-0

Prepackaged Foods: Mama's Love: Brooke Thompson brought her packaged cake mixes, caramel and chocolate sauces and cake pops. She sells cupcakes at LCFM so wants a product she can sell at Saturday Market as well. Her labels need an allergen warning, which she can apply as stickers.

Discussion: It's mixing together commercial components, but she did make the recipe and test it, and the ingredients are really high quality ones. There's an art to mixing ingredients.

***Motion: Accept the cake mixes and her products pending labels and paperwork (Alan/Alex) 6-0-0 All in favor

Carryover Screenings: Carolyn Govaventa makes kids' outfits which use commercial embroidered patches as embellishments. The craftsmanship of the garments was evident.

***Motion: Accept her clothing with the patches (Sheila/Alan) All in favor 6-0-0

Pressing Member Issues: none

Minutes Approval: ***Motion: Approve the minutes (Alex/Sheila) 5-0-1 (Alan)

Administrative Report: Kimberly listed three Notices of Concern: 1. A strolling vendor who wasn't moving around enough; 2. A complaint about a glassmaker's display (which wasn't a violation of guidelines); 3. Soaps: several complaints about scents. A newsletter item reminding people to read the guidelines on paper or online might be helpful.

Scented soaps and bath bombs: Materials were examined which included several complaints, photos of displays, and letters from soap makers. Sensitive individuals are complaining that scented products are in proximity that is too close to their booths, even with the staff efforts to keep scented products at least three booths away from those individuals who have asked to be identified on the map. Earlier discussions have been held including these same makers, and sensitive individuals. Mitigations have been tried, including having less product displayed, wrapping the products at least partially, and using sidewalls and product locations within the booths to protect those who are downwind. Changes in the weather seem to circulate the scents more intensely: wind and heat add to the dispersal. This issue was discussed at the last Board meeting, where the direction was to do more mitigation. The soapmakers are following present guidelines regarding curing time and packaging. Soap makers suggest a “scent-free zone” where sensitive individuals could move, or that the members wear face masks, or make other changes in their lives that would alleviate their reactions. Some make the point that other smells and substances irritate others but that it is an open-air market. Some soap makers find that plastic wrapping destroys their soaps. A solution that has worked was that soap makers found a neighborhood that worked for them.

Members with sensitivities describe severe problems for which there is no medication, cure, or treatment. The effects are debilitating and lasting, and worsen over time as more exposure occurs. This is a worldwide problem, and the organization’s responsibility to have safe workplaces for all who need them. It’s life threatening to them and probably affects some customers in the same ways. Once sensitized, the person cannot tolerate many other formerly innocuous substances. People who are complaining are the bellwethers of the greater society, who may not be filling out formal complaints but might still be complaining. Members are generally reluctant to complain about each other, and really do care, but it is important to focus on the products and not the people making them or experiencing them.

***Motion: Accept the Administrative Report (Alan/Alex) All in favor 6-0-0

Because of the manager transition, this issue will not likely be solved in the near future, so all are advised to have patience and try to work toward solutions rather than debate the merits of each position.

New Business: Packaging for Scented Products: The guideline clearly states that any scent has to be contained within your booth space, which was decided decades ago. Many people’s products don’t cause problems, so what is the difference? Is it the formula or the curing methods? It has been hard to ask for formulas, but it could be explored to limit levels of certain ingredients. Wrapping does seem to help and some soaps can be wrapped, particularly those that are cured longer times, such as 8 weeks or more. To make a guideline that all scented products must be wrapped would affect candles, products like heat packs with lavender, and wood products that use finishes, and all of those makers would need to be called to a meeting to discuss the changes first.

Suggestions included accepting that not all scents can be contained, re-writing the guideline to be more specific, working with people’s formulas or having studio visits to see their process, giving the manager more tools to mitigate with, and continuing with packaging requirements. Some solutions are really hard

on the member, such as glass cases, more containers, and covers. It's possible that specific ingredients are really the problem, such as the type of lye, synthetic ingredients, or specific scents. The fragrance calculator they are using might be inaccurate, published by a manufacturer to promote their products. Many instructions are available online but may not be reputable.

Other individuals might be being affected but not realize it. This may be more widespread than is presently known. Products have been banned, such as a farrier who made forged metal objects that generated a lot of smoke. For the future, it might help to find a neighborhood that works better for the soaps. Others suggested making a new map with scent-free zones.

Moving spaces would be easier if the point system had some opportunity for that. Looking at a policy that would allow swaps, or people with fewer points getting a decision to move for other reasons (such as this) might make an opening for solving these recurring situations. It's difficult to direct members to not pick certain spaces, even with a highlighted map, as if they have the points, they get to pick the space regardless of cautions. Staff needs more tools to do effective mitigations.

The situation will be revisited as soon as possible.

Manager Transitions Issues for Standards: Courtney will handle orientations and meetings, but someone has to do the followup calls the day after product decisions. Teresa and Paulette will do it, or the members could wait and be told soon after they screen, that same night. On Saturdays, if there are items that don't meet the guidelines, the co-chairs can go talk to the members. Notices of concern could be scanned and emailed to co-chairs on Tuesdays.

Continuing the mitigation will be difficult. No member should have power over other members, and no members want to do it. There isn't really a compromise point where they agree. A mediator or someone hired could manage negotiations. It can't be completely dropped. There are about 78 members who have scented products, which makes them almost a third of the spaces. Giving some ability to switch spaces or otherwise move people outside the point system would be helpful. Manager discretion is a tool to override policy, but it does have to be carefully done and not often used. That could create resentment, which would negate the benefits of the solution. All of these members worked years for their spaces.

Teresa volunteered to ask a member whose products used to create problems why they no longer do. If there was a way to measure the intensity, that would help. If strong scents were identified as hawking, they could be banned that way. Certain ingredients could be banned if they could be isolated as the problems. If the members could be opened to the possibility of changing their products, by some mediation work, that might be ideal. With curing times, however, they would have a long time before they would be able to test the new formula. Identifying the triggers would help narrow down the mitigations necessary. The issue will have to return to the Board.

Adjourned 7:15 pm

