

Clay Fest Meeting Minutes • November 2, 2021 6:30 pm

Members present: Ziggy Blum, Deb Christiansen, Alissa Clark, Frank Gosar, Beth Johnson, Jon King, Tracie Manso, Merry Newcomer, Faith Rahill, Robin Russell, Karen Washburn

In a normal year, this would be our wrap meeting. Instead, it's a check-in, and a chance to air concerns. Karen says she assumes we're meeting because there is some sense we're having a show next year.

Treasurer's Report: Robin says she is willing to continue as treasurer if we can take online payments. Collecting checks from the mailbox and delivering them to the bank is an unmanageable amount of work. Local Clay dues will once again be charged next year, after a pandemic hiatus. Deadline to renew membership is January 1.

Webpage: Merry is unable to update **clayfest.org**. She's locked out, and her attempts to get in get lost in a maze of advertisements and upgrade offer pages. She'd love to get rid of the webmaster job, but they'd need to have the requisite skills; she can't teach. Several people have begun revisions in the past, but none have ever followed through. Robin thinks we should just do a Wix page, as we did for **clayfestonline.com**. The **clayfestonline.com** site is paid through April. If we don't renew, it will simply go away.

Sponsorship: We voted at the 2019 wrap meeting to phase out sponsorship (and the associated Chair position) after 2020. Therefore, it's done.

Points: Karen says we issued points for all seated chairs during the closed years, and didn't age out points for non-chairs. 2020 and 2021 also didn't count against the 4-year term limit for chairs.

Chairs: Karen needs to know who is still willing to be a chair or trainee. She's not sure whether putting a reminder in the Local Clay newsletter is sufficient. She has the sense it's not widely read. She'll probably email past chairs direct, and would also like us to suggest any possible chair candidates. We agree that targeting specific people is probably necessary. We need to know who's in by the January meeting.

Sales Tags: We will need a new Sales Tags co-chair, Robin is not able to do it anymore. Ziggy will continue in the role, but it needs two people. The chair will need to be detail-oriented, Excel-literate, and willing to commit for multiple years.

Centralized checkout: Robin asked whether it was time to consider getting rid of our centralized check-out in favor of potters taking sales individually. She's concerned no one will want to stand in a crowded queue to make purchases. Tracie thinks that makes us just another outdoor art fair (or Saturday Market).

Frank says we'd have to drop all our value-added features: demos, kid's clay, gallery. There's some discussion whether a hybrid system could be implemented. Frank thinks we'd have to raise booth fees, because collecting sales commission wouldn't work. Faith doesn't want to give up display space in her booth for wrapping. We thrash the idea around a little, but decide to discuss further in January.

Other shows: Tracie says the outdoor Clayfolk pop-up sale in Southern Oregon was very busy. People were really eager to attend a Clayfolk event again.

Merry asks whether Ceramic Showcase is happening in 2022. Jon says they're still saying they're going forward. The application deadline is in January, rather than the traditional late November.

Frank thinks we may have a much better sense of the possible after Holiday Market. They're requiring vaccination or current negative tests of vendors, but only masking and additional hand-sanitizing stations for customers. Food choices are probably going to be limited, probably no sit-down eating.

Deb says we can't underestimate the Delta variant; she works in health care, and her experience is that it's more infectious, and much harder on the unvaccinated.

Reserving the date: Tracie asks when we need to reserve a date with the Events Center? Karen says they were very liberal in the last two years; maybe June? There's not a lot happening on-site at the moment, except for vaccination clinics. They also have a new manager since we last had a show.

Meetings: We'll have our next Clay Fest meeting in January. There'll probably be a Local Clay meeting in February.

Adjournment: Frank moves to adjourn. Beth seconds. Meeting is adjourned.