

Local Clay Minutes
April 13, 2016

Present: Avi Harriman, Molly Buckles, Cecile Haworth, Merry Newcomer, Karen Washburn, Ziggy Blum, Robin Sanchez, Annie Heron

The minutes were approved from the previous meeting on February, 17, 2016. Annie, Clay in Education chair, reported she has had one person contact her to indicate an interest in being involved with Clay in Education.

Avi reported there are three groups participating in the empty bowls endeavor, Clay Space, U of O Craft Center and Club Mud. He was not able to garner any participation from either Lane Community College or Amazon Community Center for various reasons. On that basis the number of bowls donated may not be as many as hoped or as many as in previous years when Clay Space took on the whole of that responsibility. Annie suggested it would be good to have an ongoing year by year count from the participants regarding number of bowls made and donated. It was also suggested individual members could donate bowls by dropping them off at Club Mud or Clay Space by Monday, April 26th and possibly the secretary could email membership to make that suggestion.

In addition Avi reported the Local Clay Picnic group activity in August would be Naked Raku. Since it was new to many people including himself last year and people in general seemed to enjoy the activity he thought it would be good to do again.

Cecile, Outreach Coordinator, reported extensively regarding the history of Local Clay's original vision and articles of incorporation. She discussed how Local Clay has not lived up to its own expectations for various reasons. There was much discussion around how to revitalize, instill growth and generate interest in participation from membership without overburdening the current board or any member who does volunteer to be involved. She reported having analyzed the 2016 paper copies of the Local Clay membership forms and found up to 20 people indicating an interest in being involved in one activity or another and several indicating an interest in "membership". In addition she recalled an open membership meeting a year ago which drew up to 20 members who voiced an interest in being involved in Local Clay activities. She is interested in harnessing that interest and

energy. Cecile suggested the creation of more small, finite positions to accomplish the needs of the organization similar to how Clay Fest is organized. The integration of new people and energy will require tasks and responsibilities be smaller rather than larger. Unfortunately there is currently no process in place to follow-up with people who indicate such an interest. A number of suggestions were made toward that end including referring names to the appropriate board member for contact, having the Secretary send an email to members asking who has an interest in being involved and how and referring those people to the appropriate board members, having the treasurer create new fields in the current membership spreadsheet to incorporate the interests expressed by members on their Local Clay applications, and directly hiring someone, possibly a college student, to query membership for interests and talents and organize membership participation and duties. Cecile wondered if one of the people who indicated an interest in membership might be willing to take on that role, create a committee and go forward with that endeavor.

Along a similar line of thought Cecile and Merry, current webmaster, reported and discussed concerns the current web site is not meeting the needs of the organization and not appealing to the membership. Merry discussed that the current website is too dependent on text and not very interesting. But there is concern that it could become too busy like the OPA website and be no better at meeting needs and generating interests. Merry said she will check with Network Solutions who hosts the website regarding the numbers of people accessing the website and what is accessed. She will explore uncomplicated and simple but appealing websites as models.

As suggested in a previous meeting community organizations with which Local Clay has a connection should be included as recipients of the newsletter. The Secretary will include them in the next newsletter mailing which will include Georgie's, Clay Space, Club Mud and U of O Craft Center along with possibly others.

Cecile suggested possibly the best way to begin would be for her to recruit a membership chair from those members who have already indicated an interest on the basis of their membership applications and oversee the creation of a membership coordinating committee. Such a committee will tabulate data, enter it in the database and determine the best way to utilize

the information. This idea was unanimously favored as a great place to start.

The treasurer, Robin, is concerned about too many people having access to the current database. She will work on creating a separate membership database to include only names, contact information and participation interests for the express use of the membership committee Cecile will be helping to organize.

Annie made a motion the membership dues be raised by \$5.00 if received after February 1st and seconded by Cecile. After some discussion the motion was amended to a postmarked cut off date of March 1st. "Early bird" applications and dues, postmarked before March 1st, would remain at the current \$15.00. Applications with dues postmarked and received after March 1st would be subject to the \$5.00 increase of \$20.00. In addition the dues for a first time (not renewal) member will be \$15.00 for the year regardless of when posted. The motion was seconded as amended and unanimously approved. This increase will go into effect as of January 2017.

The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will be the Local Clay Picnic on August 14th.

Respectively submitted on April, 21, 2016 by
Molly Buckles, Secretary, Local Clay