

LOCAL CLAY MINUTES

January 27, 2016

Present: Karen Washburn, Cecile Haworth, Deb Christensen, Mariah Williams, Frank Gosar, Ziggy Blum, Merry Newcomer, Avi Harriman, Molly Buckles.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. It was moved and seconded they be adopted. Frank moved the slate of officers as previously nominated be elected. This was seconded and unanimously approved. They are as follows:

President: Ziggy Blum

Secretary: Molly Buckles

Treasurer: Robin Russell

Clay in Ed: Annie Heron

Program: Avi Harriman

Clay Fest Chair: Karen Washburn

Webmaster: Merry Newcomer with Cecile Haworth in training

Outreach: Cecile Haworth

A new member, Mariah Williams, current artist in residence and class instructor at ClaySpace introduced herself to the group and was welcomed.

Avi, Events Coordinator, reported on the upcoming Empty bowls, Local Clay Picnic and the joint Mask show with the local Glass Guild artists for 2016. At the previous meeting there was discussion regarding Jim Laub's desire for Clayspace not to carry the entire load as the only venue for creation of the bowls to be donated. However, Clayspace members would be allowed to use the facilities for this purpose. Other facilities such as Club Mud, Lane Community College, The Craft Center at the U of O and artists working from their home studios were discussed. It was mentioned the Amazon community Center may be another option as well. It was discussed this kind of arrangement would spread this worthwhile endeavor would help make it more of a community endeavor. In addition the coordination would be under remain auspices of Local Clay and help promote Local Clay as more than simply the Clay Fest organizer within the clay artists community. At this time the date for the empty bowls sale is scheduled for Friday May 6th. Avi will be making contact with the various organizations and to schedule throw-a-thons and glaze-a-thons.

It was discussed that since this past Local Clay Picnic naked raku activity was such fun we could do raku again as an activity. The idea of doing both naked and traditional raku was suggested.

It was further reported the Glass Guild is interested in doing another joint show this year. They would like to do it in early October with a Halloween theme. The Local Clay contributions to the prize winning artists was not covered in last year's budget because the opportunity did not present itself until after the budget meeting.

Cecile Haworth, Chair of Outreach, discussed the outcome of an effort to create a survey to ask the general Local Clay members what they would be interested in having Local Clay provide in order to build a more active, vibrant and participatory membership community. The decision

was not to proceed given the probability very little new or useful information was likely to be generated.

Cecile also discussed a new initiative working with SCORE, Service Corp of Retired Executives also more recently known as Counselors to America's Small Business, to establish and work with community partners. The object would be to identify and facilitate connections with community partners for mutual benefit. The goal would be more visibility in the community for Local Clay and it's activities thereby attracting more and younger members. There is no financial obligation to work with this group.

The proposal to partner with SCORE was moved, seconded and approved. Avi further proposed those organizations participating in Empty Bowls become community partners within this initiative.

In addition Cecile proposed joining the Meet-Up groups platform to create meet-ups as desired or needed for various reasons. These meet-ups could be in the form of demos, Frank suggested presentations on business or marketing ideas and advice or any number of other ideas to bring people together around ideas and activities that may be of interest. The cost to join would be \$150.00 for the initial year and \$300.00 per year thereafter. Avi commented You tube videos could be linked with Local Clay through the website which could help draw people to meetings in general and to attend meet ups. It was unanimously agreed the cost for the first year was reasonable enough to try for a year. Cecile will look further into the sign up process and procedures for getting started.

Merry Newcomer, Webmaster, discussed the difficulty of keeping the website current or changing aspects of the website when desirable. This has been in part due to program issues not easily or well understood by many people and making it a much harder and more time consuming job than it needs to be. Cecile Haworth, Webmaster in training, discussed there are now templates available that are easy and usable by anyone at low cost. This would help make the webmaster job as easy as possible and allow more people to participate in keeping the website current. Merry and Cecile will consult regarding the existing site and it's current arrangement, etc.

There was also a proposal that the payments needing to be made by Local Clay be paid through a bank account draft or pre-paid credit card thereby making that activity easier. This was tabled for further discussion upon acquisition of further information.

Merry announced the Clay show to be on display at Georgie's for March will be Totems. Anyone is welcome to submit a piece of work to be included in this upcoming show.

The next Local Clay board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th, at Ziggy Blum's residence, 1675 Washington Street, 6:30PM.

Further local Clay membership meetings for 2016 are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, April 13th at ClaySpace at 6:30.
Local Clay picnic, Saturday, August 14th, ClaySpace
Wednesday, November 16th, ClaySpace at 6:30

Respectfully submitted 2/10/16 by Molly Buckles, incoming Secretary

