

GLPG Board Meeting

March 7, 2015, 9:00 am

In attendance: Keith Bassar, Barbra Hyman, Sara Laitala, Jerry Reid (left @ 10:30 am), Ted Rozeboom, Barb Sears, Charlie Seebeck, Margie Steinkamp (see New Business, Item II), Wendi Tilden, and Joan Witter

January Board Minutes – The minutes from our last meeting were approved with no changes.

Reports

- I. **Director – Facilities & Equipment:** Seebeck reported that the CAT kiln has been fired once since its recent repairs to the motor; it appears to be working normally. There was concern that we may need to replace the kiln's two Fireye boxes in the future; they would cost \$2,000 each.

The Guild's 5-year old furnace has failed twice this year, so Seebeck called on Northwinds to repair it. Should it happen again, Seebeck is asking members to investigate the blinking light which acts as a troubleshooting code. You would need to pull off the front cover to find (about knee high) a yellow light that flashes short & long blinks and make note of the timing of flashing light. In general, by the time the repair folks come out, it has stopped blinking and just stays on. Sears asked Seebeck to find out if Northwinds offers service contract options that might save us money long-term.

Seebeck also reported that the new motor in spray booth pulls much harder; it seems to be overheating and must be off for 30 minutes before it can be used again. He thinks there is a problem with the fan belt speed. Seebeck and Bassar will work to resolve the problem.

- II. **Treasurer – Finances:** Rozeboom reported that all income except checks from our spring term classes is included in the attached financial statement. Bills for snow plowing and the repairs to the CAT kiln have not yet been received/paid. He also noted that the Guild's phone service has been changed, which saves \$5/month (from \$55 to \$50/month).

Tilden asked about the findings from the ad hoc 501(c)(3) committee set up after last spring's annual meeting. Rozeboom reported that the committee hadn't met yet, but that he'd done some research into case law and talked with a couple of pottery groups. He hopes to get the committee together soon to discuss his recommendations. Hyman asked what organizations were contacted so far on this issue; Rozeboom talked with someone at Pewabic and also from the Grand Rapids Guild. Hyman suggested we also talk with someone at the Ann Arbor Potters' Guild to find out what they've done to resolve or address this concern since many of GLPG's policies were modeled from theirs. Sears asked to have more information on this issue by our next board meeting.

- III. **Outreach – Swartz Creek Ceramics Class:** Seebeck reported that Clark and Sears joined him in the throwing demonstration for students. Seebeck demonstrated for an hour, both throwing and trimming, while Clark explained the process and Sears took some photos. The school's video club filmed it and indicated that they would put a video of the demo online for student reference; the students also wrote an article for their paper on the demo and shared it with Seebeck. The art teacher was also impressed and is now thinking of taking a class at GLPG this summer to learn how to throw. Seebeck noted that there were only 2 wheels for the 28 students in the class; each student gets 1 week on the wheel. It was suggested that we consider offering

scholarships or gifts to art teachers who want to take classes; Tilden expressed concern about this as there are likely many other art teachers and/or public school programs that would also be interested beyond Swartz Creek. Reid suggested that this discussion by the board is premature as the Outreach Committee has not yet met to discuss the idea and offer recommendation(s).

Old Business

- I. **Display of Group/Anniversary Photos** – Sears had an 8x10” photo printed and given to Reid to frame. Sears will explore reprinting previous group photos for better quality and hopes to get them re-framed and displayed together in the clean room.
- II. **Memorial Fund Suggestions** – Tilden followed-up with Steinkamp after the last board meeting; they will work to compile consensus recommendations from the full guild re: how the donated funds should be spent.

New Business

- I. **Gift Certificate Request from East Lansing Public Library** – The Library asked GLPG to donate a gift certificate to our sale for a fundraising event they’re hosting this spring. The proceeds will go to building and supporting a permanent “Maker Studio” in downtown East Lansing. Tilden asked why GLPG should support the library. Subsequent discussion indicated that (a) GLPG has donated gift certificates before for local events like Tourist in Your Own Town and the Apple Butter Festival and (b) historically, the East Lansing Public Library has been very supportive of local artists and has provided public display space for some of our members like Clark and Ryan. The board approved donation of a \$50 gift certificate for their Makers Studio event.
- II. **Proposal for Trial Participation of Instructors in GLPG Sales** – Steinkamp reported that the Sale Committee unanimously supported the idea of inviting GLPG instructors to participate in our sales for a 1-year trial. The idea was then shared with the Education Committee, and a joint sub-committee was formed (Laitala, Steinkamp, Tilden, and Witter) to craft proposed guidelines for board consideration (see attached). It was noted that the Committees are not seeking a formal policy change at this time, just approval to conduct a one-year experiment that would provide data for analysis.

Rozeboom asked if anyone knew why all instructors weren’t invited in to the sale to begin with; it was found that members knew why Plum was invited to participate, but no one here or at the Sale Committee meeting remembered why others were not. Steinkamp noted that the concept could help bring in new customers and students, too, if teachers are represented at the sales. Rozeboom suggested that it could highlight a potential line between the Guild’s hobby potter members vs. the instructors as production potters. Sears clarified that most outside GLPG instructors would not consider themselves production potters, just professional potters.

Rozeboom suggested that inviting instructors into the sale could prompt new reporting requirements for 1099s, but did not think it would be a problem for the proposed trial period of two sales. Tilden asked why GLPG doesn’t already provide 1099s to its members. Rozeboom noted that many years ago Brodbeck’s husband (a CPA) had determined they were not necessary. Hyman asked that we find out more about 1099 reporting requirements by the end

of the trial period so a full evaluation of the experiment could be made. Hyman also suggested that we find out what other art nonprofits do re: 1099s for those who sell with them.

Sears moved to support the proposal, Tilden seconded. Bassar asked that the board delay its vote and consult the full membership in this decision at the annual meeting. Tilden noted that a majority of the membership already weighed in via the two committees, which indicate 17 members collectively supported the proposal. Hyman supported postponement to allow more notice to instructors who may want to produce work for the sales. Rozeboom asked that the proposal clarify its intent to invite “non-member teachers” into the sale.

Rozeboom moved that this proposal for Trial Participation of Instructors in Two Guild Sales be slated as a topic of discussion at the next annual meeting, Bassar seconded. Sears clarified that a “yes vote” would indicate that the best path is for this concept is consideration by the full membership at our annual meeting and not by the board at this time. The motion passed with 6 yes votes, 2 no votes, and 1 absent (Reid had to leave before the vote).

Steinkamp asked if the board would be willing to go on record with the Sale and Education Committees in support of the proposal before it goes before the full membership. Tilden moved to add the support of the board to the proposal, Seebeck seconded. The motion passed (7 yes votes, 1 opposed).

Tilden will revised the proposal before it goes to the full membership to include necessary sale date changes (it will now show Fall 2015 and Spring 2016) and clarification of “non-member teachers.”

- III. **Reconsideration of Work for Points Policy** – Bassar asked that the board reconsider its April 2014 decision to increase points from 300 to 400 per hour. After consideration of the revised policy and subsequent discussion with other members, Bassar expressed concern that the decision may not have represented the will of the full membership given the vote makeup (4 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain). The board reviewed and explored concerns relating to both the decision-making process and the points increase in relation to the work needing to be done at the guild. Hyman suggested that if Guild work isn’t getting done, it is more likely a reflection of the current physical abilities and limitations of many members rather than the increase in points/hour. It was noted that there was a quorum at the April 2014 meeting and a majority voted in favor of the policy change. After the discussion, Bassar indicated that his questions were answered and objections satisfied.
- IV. **Proposed Topics & To-dos for Annual Meeting** – Sears asked that the board consider what topics should be discussed at the upcoming Annual Meeting. After some initial discussion, topic ideas included reminding members about (a) Guild work needs and requirements, and (b) submitting new pots for photo shoots so that the Publicity Committee has recent options to choose from for sale postcards. Other agenda items will include board and new member elections and collection of committee preference sheets. It was noted that last year we also used the meeting to educate members about the Guild’s 501(c)(3) educational mission and the work of the Ceramic Outreach Committee; group consensus indicated a hope to highlight another committee and/or key issue in upcoming meeting; this will be decided at the April board meeting.

In preparation for the meeting, exiting board members Seebeck, Hyman, and Sears will discuss and identify board nominations. Sears will solicit/compile summaries and highlights of the year’s activities from committee chairs. Tilden will notify members about the annual meeting

and nominees at least 10 days before the meeting. She will also provide/collect committee preference sheets and prepare/collect ballots.

Other Business

- Szilagyι asked Sears if we could conduct another survey of members to find out their Guild work abilities and timing preferences. Tilden agreed to prepare a survey/form for distribution at the upcoming Sale Meeting.
- Fitzgerald asked Sears if the newsletter should be continued. After some discussion, the board agreed to stand by its last recommendation that a newsletter be prepared twice/year. Members really appreciate the newsletter and are grateful for the time and good work that Fitzgerald and others do to make it happen. The board also agreed that the timing of the newsletter could be up to Fitzgerald and should be done at her convenience.
- Sears asked the board to consider how we might improve the functioning of GLPG Committees. Are there ways to get the committees to function as a unit rather than piecemeal by others taking on jobs as individuals? Should we set term limits on leadership positions to help ensure broader depth of experience? Should we mandate that committees meet at least once/year? Should any of the committees be consolidated to reduce inefficiencies? The board discussed a few examples: the recent Chatterly presentation (workshop vs. social), Facebook (web site vs. publicity), 45th Anniversary (social vs. board), and Apple Butter Festival (individual volunteer vs. community activities). Members are encouraged to think about this issue and provide ideas about what might be consolidated and/or where improvements could be made; the topic will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

The **next Board meeting** will be at 7 pm on Thurs., April 2. The **GLPG Annual Meeting** will be at 7 pm on Thurs., May 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Wendi Tilden