

GLPG Board Meeting January 15, 2015, 7:00 pm

In attendance: Keith Bassar, Sara Laitala, Jerry Reid, Ted Rozeboom, Barb Sears, Charlie Seebeck, Wendi Tilden, and Joan Witter

Absent: Barb Hyman

Award Presentation by GLFB – Joe Wald from the Greater Lansing Food Bank attended the first 15 minutes of the board meeting. He wanted to personally thank the Guild for its long time support of Empty Bowls and present us with an award issued by their board of directors to reflect their appreciation. (They also presented ClayWorks with an award.) This resolution of tribute will be at the guild in the display area for members to view at their convenience.

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

Reports

- I. Director – Facilities & Equipment:** Seebeck reported that the back toilet has been replaced; he hired a plumber once he realized the damage to our existing toilet was extensive and replacement was a better option than repair. Bassar and Clark recently fixed the spray booth fan motor; Bassar advised that the next time the motor breaks down the Guild will likely need to replace it. Seebeck also reported that the main furnace stopped working and that it has been repaired. The missing tiles on one side of the clean room have been pulled up to help dry out the cement pad; that area will be used to test for moisture in floor (once tested, we'll be able to decide next steps on replacing the flooring).
- II. Glaze Committee Chair – Clay/Glaze/Kiln activities:** Sears brought in a copy of Hyman's recent email (dated January 8, 2015) to membership. She acknowledged the new spray booth procedures, thanked Seebeck and Hyman for establishing a second spray area counter in clay room, and encouraged members to review the changes and recommendations in procedure.
- III. Treasurer – Finances:** Rozeboom reviewed the Guild's current financial picture (see Balance sheet and YTD income/expenses); no challenges or major deviations from the proposed budget were found. Rozeboom reported that Fred Van Strain donated \$1,000 to the Guild at the end of last year and that \$300 had already been gifted by others in Kathy's memory. These funds are earmarked as a "Memorial Fund" under our Equity asset line on the Balance Sheet and noted as "Other revenue" on the detailed budget document. Rozeboom indicated that the board needs to decide what to do with funds. Sears asked when we should plan to have further discussion on ideas for spending memorial fund; Tilden reminded the board that it had decided last August to ask Steinkamp to organize a discussion of members' memorial preferences and provide the board with consensus recommendations. Tilden will follow-up with Steinkamp re: next steps.

Other reports:

- I. **President** – Sears reported that Wade MacDonald found studio space with another artist, so his request to use the guild for a month has been resolved. The board spent many hours in virtual discussion on this topic via email. Sears suggested that some components of the email discussion may be of interest to the Education Committee. It was also suggested that some of the discussion could be of interest to the Membership Committee and may be relevant to the VP program.
- II. **Vice President** – Witter reported that a Soldans gift certificate for birdseed (instead of flowers) was given to Timmons at the conclusion of her recent medical treatment. Witter asked that members be reminded to share their card/gift recipient suggestions with her.

Old Business

- I. **Membership Committee** – Rozeboom (& Guerin) endorsed the Membership Committee's request to eliminate the requirement that Emeritus Members submit an annual letter requesting continuance of their status. The Board accepted the recommendation of the committee and agrees that the annual dues check(s) submitted by emeritus members serve as the written notice. It was noted that the red book language would need to be adapted to reflect this change; Sears will let Guerin know that the committee needs to provide the proposed revised language for inclusion in the red book. Rozeboom noted that the first reminder of dues is sent in May and, as needed, a second reminder is sent in November.
- II. **Assess/Review Recent Events** – Sears asked for and shared feedback on successes and challenges with recent Guild events. It was also suggested that we remind and encourage members to participate in Apple Butter, Tourist in Your Own Town, and/or Empty Bowls.
 - Apple Butter Festival – One challenge this year was that some members who'd signed up to help forgot about their obligation that day. Sears had heard that some folks thought they couldn't or shouldn't say "no" to Charlie when they were asked to participate. Two positive factors include: 1) participation in the event helps GLPG fulfill its educational mission in our community and 2) it takes place just a couple weeks before the sale, which makes it a terrific advertising venue.
 - Fall 2014 Sale and Teacher Tour of Guild – Tilden expressed concern that the art teacher event at the Guild may have led to the staffing shortage problem at the sale on Friday. It was suggested that if an event overlaps with the sale again in the future, we should make every effort to ensure the sale shifts are completely covered so that the members working aren't unduly pressured. It was noted that there were not any student pots in the sale.

- 45th Anniversary Celebration – Sears reported that group photos from the evening can be accessed through Dropbox. She will get a group photo printed and Reid offered to donate a frame. The current and past photos of Guild events will be hung on clean room wall by the mailboxes.

New Business

- I. **Available Shelf Space for Visiting Potters** – The Membership Committee requested guidance on how much shelf space might be available for incoming visiting potters. Seebeck said he would investigate and provide Guerin with the numbers. It was noted that we may need to continue limiting any new members to 1 single shelf instead of 2 “full” shelves.
- II. **Request for Points Book Committee to Track and Report Members’ Guild Work Requirements to Membership Committee** – Guerin emailed a request to Sears for board endorsement of this request from the Membership Committee. The board raised many questions, including why this information would ever be used to say “no” to emeritus requests. There were conflicting opinions expressed about whether or not it was appropriate for the membership committee to track and police membership data. It was noted that the membership committee already receives reports re: pot totals in the sales and reports of any problems with members’ point tracking. It was suggested that if we were in a situation where jobs/chores were not getting done at the Guild, then this request might meet with more support. After some discussion, it was decided that Guerin should be asked for clarification on how the data might be used by the membership committee. The board will revisit the discussion at its next meeting.

Other Business

- **Wheel Demonstration at High School Pottery Class** – Sears reported that a teacher from Swartz Creek asked for wheel demonstration help from a Guild member (to take place in the first 2 weeks of February). She would like someone to show her advanced pottery students how to center, open, and raise walls throwing. Seebeck said he’d do it and would recruit Clark to help if possible.

The next Board meeting will be scheduled electronically. [It is now scheduled for Saturday, March 7 at 9:00 am in the clean room at the Guild.]

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Wendi Tilden