

Called to order 11:53 on February 22, 2009

Dave, Stephanie, Lora & Chris were present.

Treasure's report:

Bank Balance \$20, 277.09

Projected Annual Expenses (not Yarn , Seminar, or Show):

Insurance 500

Accountant 500

Web Page 2,000

Web Hosting 500

Picnic 300

Miscellaneous 200

SubTotal 4,000

Seminar 2,000

Yarn Pay Off 2,400

Show 10,000

Total \$18,400

Balance for Fiber/Yarn Project \$1,877.09

Membership report:

Database info and quick books do not completely agree.

Estimated dues still to come 1,000.00

Annual renewal date may need to be considered in order to keep things cleaner, dues will need to be prorated.

Stephanie will take over membership, Chris & Stephanie to get together to reconcile.

Sponsorship:

All the Platinum Sponsors were called from last year. MABA members have received an email with the discount offer. In addition the discount off was announced at the February 1st MAPACA meeting.

We have commitments from the following Platinum sponsors who have indicated they will pay before April 30th to take advantage of the discount:

Abenaki Acres

Dafi Alpacas

Prairie Lake

Peaceful Hollow

A Paca Fun

Flying Pony

Events:

Dave handled 6 to 8 events last year where MABA info was passed out as well as info about the show. This year we can also sell yarn. Dave asked the board to weigh in on a question from a member about whether individual farms can sell to the public from their own farm stores. BOD says no. Members can bring their own cards and farm info.

Yarn party mentioned to Dave by Linda Minic, on the March 15th may not be available to MABA because we do not have hand made yarn.

Miscellaneous:

Should the mailing list be made available to members for “hardships” or other types of broadcasts? no.

The Mill will be sending a mailing to MABA farms re the rails and begin to market to “us”. Alpaca workshop for the Mill. MABA will not furnish the mill with a list but they can get what they need from our website as far as addresses.

Marketing Committee:

The marketing committee was brought up numerous times at the Bellasara meeting. A marketing committee is not going to be reestablished at this point. The fiber committee will take care deciding how the fiber will be marketed and any visual materials will be handled by the board or by Steve Quigley.

The ad for the symposium was reviewed and approved.

Al will be retrieving the brochures from Nancy.

Fiber committee:

Stephanie, Lora & Chris briefly discussed the fiber committee meeting on Feb 21st at Bellasara to bring Dave up to speed. The Board discussed fiber committee chair nominee and basic questions about budget and possible rug production.

Meeting of fiber committee will follow general meeting on Sunday March 1st so they can be given a chance to ask questions and new members can join in who were not able to be present on the 21st. We will conduct a survey to help determine the best way to proceed with the next yarn project. Board “directives” are currently:

1. Meet with Al Beatty to hear his "vision" of the MABA yarn project (done)
2. Assist the BOD in drafting a thoughtful survey to go out to the membership to assess where the most interest lies within MABA (we can use a free Survey Monkey on line service for this)
3. Contact the members individually to tell them about the survey and get their expanded comments
4. Report the survey results to the BOD and assist us in determining or creating a fiber model - we should provide them with the outline Jo gave us of fiber coops.
5. Review and revise the Fiber Committee charter, include an outline of the model we would like

formed

6. Advise the BOD of an educational event they feel would be a good fit for the organization
7. Assist / manage a major educational event
8. Give feedback to the BOD on pricing the yarn we plan to buy from AI
9. Advise the BOD of ways the existing MABA yarn can be marketed and how to determine a wholesale price for MABA members
10. Attend one or two public events with the MABA yarn if that is determined to be the marketing avenue of choice
11. Establish a three year plan, especially if we plan to take on inventory or begin manufacturing end product
12. Get together after the March 1 general meeting to recap meeting at AI's involve anyone new who could not make it before.
13. Develop a plan of action for creating swatches and sample kits.

Jo Padgett presented an outline of various fiber co op models to the board for consideration and discussion. Each coop has various pros and cons and different marketing procedures. There are many things to consider regarding the ways fiber is taken in, levels of ownership and or membership involvement, marketing procedures on the back end and administrative details.

There was also discussion about the Coarse Broads program and other possibilities for a sorting workshops. No final decision was made but a sorting workshop is on the top of our list.

Meeting adjourned 2:35