

## **January 14 Guelph Guild Meeting Notes**

In attendance: Carrie M, Darlene B, Esther S, Fatima H, Hilary A, Gail I, Kirsten N, Lisa F, Liz H, Louise H, Nicole D, Sheena T

Lisa F. volunteered to chair the meeting.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Guild Christmas Show:**

Discussion of people's experience of last Guelph show on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

General conversation about the learning experiences of folks. Darlene spoke about the concerns she had had about judging prices and offering products and the experience of having things she had expected to sell not sell and those she had thought would not sell, did sell. In general, her experience was excellent as everyone was helpful and it was a lot of fun. Attendance did peter out towards the end of the day so when she came to volunteer there wasn't a need to have her demonstrate.

### **Next show discussion:**

Date not set yet as that goes through Tonie (Tonie Sacchetti | Recreation Program Coordinator) idea that has been floated is that it will be in the field by the Guelph Pottery Center on Edinburgh in June. This way demos could take place in the studio, there would be good visibility and folks could park on side streets. It would be the first time and trying to look at partnering with instructors and their classes to encourage students to participate with the idea that this helps us build community at the Center.

Part of this idea is to help build and then hopefully move the City towards seeing our need for more space and expansion of the building and increase in resources. There is a need for members to put themselves forward for a committee to work on the show and very important to liaise with the City (aka Tonie re. the show). This should happen by March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will be about final details.

### **Financial Report:**

Gail gave the Financial Report connected in part to the sales of the December show as well as current financial situation. For ease and clarity here is the printed copy of her report.

#### **Financial Report**

Bank balance: as of December 31, 2018. \$948.73

Petty Cash \$61.00

Total \$1,009.73

No bills owing

We get 10 free cheques once a year on June 14. We only have 3 left and I might have to order some that will cost us but will try not to.

## **2019 Membership cards**

Any new members please fill out a membership application. I have several blank forms and I will hand them out at the end of the meeting.

Anyone who has their membership dues please give to me at the end of the meeting and I will give you your membership cards.

## **15th Annual Exhibition and Sale - Christmas Sale**

The total sales were \$3214.00. The city's 30% portion was \$964.20. Members portion was \$2,249.80

Last year there were a lot of members that had issues with the city and the way the cash and consequential pay out was dealt with. This year I wanted to know exactly what was going on before I gave the data to the city.

I cross referenced all the sales between the receipt books and individual pricing lists several times. A few problems arose and I have a few suggestions, but I think that each show should be dealt with on an individual basis during the organizational stages.

I would like to suggest that we return to using our first and last initials on price tags and record sheets. The use of last names eliminated confusion over ownership, but it was cumbersome and created problems during balancing. Duplication of initials can be dealt with as we are organizing each show and are determining a vendor's list.

I have all the individual pricing sheets. You can pick them up at the end of the meeting. If you find a problem or any inconsistencies, please let me know and we can talk and compare it to the data I used to establish the totals that I gave to Tonie at the city.

In some cases, I have included data from previous shows. I found them filed and I thought they might be useful to track patterns in your sales.

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Note not covered on the financial report: Need for folks with past experience at the pottery sales to work as an Experienced Floater to be able to make final decisions on questions.

## **Email List:**

The email list was sent around. Many new members at the meeting so it was brought up to date and people were asked to check that what was listed was correct.

## **Chair discussion:**

Current chair has resigned as she is busy. So discussion ensued as to the need to vote for a new chair which included a discussion the responsibilities of the Chair.

Chair prepares the agenda for the meeting – coordinating with the membership secretary, liaising with the treasure and is meant to be the person who does NOT do it all but rather inspires & coordinates other to volunteer and step up. Hillary commented that in the past as the group was in the set up stage there had been a number of decisions made by the Chair but not as much at the moment as the group works more collectively. In the past the Chair has had signing authority etc.

At this point no one stepped up, and there was discussion about working cooperatively at circling the running a meeting etc. Discussion continued as to who might have time to take this on and Gail decided that she could fit it in her schedule for the next year.

End result: Gail will chair the next meeting in March. Please email her to add items to the agenda.

## **Discussion about a social event:**

There had been talk in November about getting together for a social outing over the holidays which did not happen, Lisa H has a lovely suggestion about a Lebanese restaurant for the guild to discuss and think about as a possibility– Retour Bistro. Folks will talk and come up with a list of possible dates.

## **Conversations about Future Projects/Workshops:**

Sheena T would like to do a demo workshop on Surface decoration on Bisque ware - Bubbling, marbling and a few other techniques if there is interest. Possible idea for April but would need to speak with John about finding time in the Center as it is not something that could happen in her shared studio space. Interest was expressed by the folks in attendance so she will follow up with John and Tonie.

Gail mentioned she has spoken with Tonie about the need for advance classes. There is a possibility that the City may reduce the number of beginner classes with the idea of adding an advanced throwing class which could be possibly project oriented. ( Many folks mentioned the idea of Eleanor as possible teacher.) Also a suggestion of Sunday afternoon as a great time for such a class as well as the realization that there are a number of members who would take the advanced class which would leave more space in beginner classes which they are taking merely as there is not another choice.

Hamilton Guild Website mentions a number of guilds and classes in the area but does not list us. Esther will send them our information and try to update their listings.

General discussion on the need to promote the Guild to more area potters and how to best accomplish that.

Conversation about how to build more Open Studio time and the history of how Open Studio used to be run. Hope being that if we can build up our contribution to the City through attention, participation and sales this might drive them to recognize the need.

## **March Meeting:**

Focus on Photography. Suggestion that folks bring in examples of their photography of their work and we can discuss it.

Side note: Follow up on a conversation about trying to get photography from the studio to be used as promotions for the studio and Guelph programs. Need to work on developing a bank of images for picking a Christmas poster. Need to also work on start getting more photography for website. Need high res pictures: 1200 dpi is the suggestion. Part of the next meeting in March is collecting images from each person to transfer that to a thumbdrive.

## **April Meeting:**

Decoration Workshop possibility.

## **June Sale:**

Sheena was wondering if the Advertising Committee could have a budget to help spread the word. Question on who would make the posters (likely the City). Fatima is a designer who would be willing to work on a poster idea for our own poster if that is the route we go. Need to see what the City will do but the Advertising Committee will need to do things like call the newspaper/radio/hand out flyers. Carrie also mentioned that she has access to internal mail at the City so willing and able to get things out to the Libraries etc. She is also willing to be a point of check in with the City to find out what is happening.

Esther commented that Aframe signs would be a good thing to use and that she does have unheated storage available if that was needed so promotion could be more prominent.

Need to make a decision re. committee members for the June Show. Hillary has a template for planning, basically timeline for tasks re.promotion and organization. She will put up the link under the member's section. Need about 4 members ( which means still covered if a case of real life happens). Email call will go out asking for volunteers.

Esther is in charge of FB and Instagram would like to connect with folks and get more images of new, ongoing work and ideas.

Meeting wrapped up at about 8:40 pm with some members discussing life since they last saw each other just a bit later than that.

Notes recorded with likely much more detail than needed by Kirsten N