Fiber & Fiber Products Committee (FiberCom)

Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2015

Meeting: Conference Call — October 6, 2015, 8:00 p.m. EDT

Members: Stacy Heydt, Chair
Launda Soper, Secretary
Stacie Chavez (absent)
B-J Ellis
Ruth Fuqua
Chris Reachard

Board Liaison: Norm Johnson

Staff Representative: Andrea Harrington

1.0 Meeting Opening:

1.1 Approval of minutes from the meeting held on August 3, 2015: B-J made the motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting and Stacy seconded the motion, passed.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 National Fleece Show Update:

Andrea informed us that a location has not yet been found for the next fleece show but they should have the venue narrowed down within the next few weeks. They are searching for a venue that will meet our criteria and be available for more than one year. Andrea will email us the result once they have a venue. Stacy informed Andrea that Suri Symposium would be interested in co-hosting an event with us at some point in the future.

2.2 Project #9 Fashion Brochure:

We all congratulated Andrea on the final result for the Fashion Brochure. We all feel it turned out amazingly well. Kudos to all who participated.

2.3 Project #5 Resource Directory Project:

Norm informed us that the Directory will be a published piece as well as being uploaded as a Word document. Additional information will be able to be added as necessary and quarterly updates will keep the information current. Norm will check and see what our target date is and let us know. Upon completion, an eBlast will go out to let everyone know where to obtain a copy of the Directory and how to access the information on line. Stacy suggested we send out a questionnaire to ascertain if the public has anything further they'd like to see added to the Directory. She will be the contact person and will be updating the information periodically.

2.4 Articles for *Alpacas Magazine*:

Stacy said she would like to see more articles submitted on fiber and on "How To" techniques. It was suggested that we ask Stacie and Wini to work with the committee to create an article summarizing her work during the recent fiber collection, an article that covers all the aspects of how the collection went, what will happen to the fiber next, etc.

2.5 Project #10 Fiber as a Business Brochure:

We feel the brochure should be a small pamphlet encompassing the basics of fiber as a business with general information in print and a more comprehensive guideline available online with links to further information. We agreed that we need to work up a general outline with topics and work in conjunction with each other to create a brochure that touches lightly on all aspects of fiber processing options.

Some of the topics suggested were shearing day preparation, value added steps, marketing your fiber, using social media as a selling tool, how to properly label your yarn for sale, and various other topics. We also discussed, again, trying to get a standard put in place for alpaca yarn. One of the topics brought up was the International Yarn Standard. Andrea suggested that we create a proposal for the Board and try again to get a standard put in place. We feel a section of the brochure should feature a yarn gauge/chart of some sort as a reference for our readers. Proper tags from mills with yarn sizes would be a great help to the public, especially as a selling point. Most experienced knitters, crocheters, and weavers need exact information in order to follow a pattern and create their items correctly. Having labels state all of the pertinent information would be an invaluable tool.

3.0 New Business:

Ruth mentioned that it is time again to put the call out for donations for the Student Design Competition. She needs about 40 pounds of yarn, roving, fabric swatches, and funds to make the competition a success. She would like for an eBlast to go out so she can start collecting all the items necessary. Chris said he would start asking for spin-off sample skeins, and suggested that Ruth get with Back 40 and see if they may have anything available for us. We will all get with people we know, including Rose Haven and Wade Gease, and start asking for donations for the SDC.

Norm told us there will be a Board meeting on 10/07/15 and that they would be discussing “Fiber-Centric” topics and working on finding a venue for our next show.

4.0 Meeting Wrap:

4.1 Next Meeting: Monday, November 2, 2015, 8:00 p.m. EST.

4.2 Adjournment: Chris made a motion to adjourn, B-J seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. EDT.