Fiber and Fiber Products Committee Minutes
Approved March 1, 2021

February 1, 2021
7:00pm Eastern, 6:00pm Central, 5:00pm Mountain, 4:00pm Pacific

Committee Members:
B-J Ellis
Alyssa Winterfeld (AOA Staff Liaison)
Ruth Fuqua
Karen Ball
Wini Labrecque (BOD Liaison)
Elizabeth Taylor
Elaine Gerber
Charlene Schmid (Committee Chair)
Eleni Roberts (Secretary)
Clarissa Wisner
Dana Rhodes

All present

0.5 Introduce Dana Rhodes to the committee and the committee to Dana Rhodes Everyone introduced themselves with a little history of their involvement with AOA and raising alpacas. Our new member Dana Rhodes also introduced herself so we could get to know her better.

1.0 Action: Call to order Meeting called to order at 4:11 pm pacific time

2.0 Action: January Meeting Minutes Approval
Elizabeth moved to approve the minutes from January 4, 2021, seconded by Ruth, all in favor

3.0 Update: AOA Board Update, Wini & Robin. Nothing specific discussed at AOA board meeting. Need to work on fiber standards for universal titles for each grade of fiber. Wini has been working on adding alpaca to listing of commodities but has not introduced this yet to the committee.

Discussion New Member Application:

Discussed the possibility of a new member to the fiber committee. After discussion agreed that at this time, we did not need additional committee members. Will keep her information for future possibility.

4.0 Update/Discussion: Natural Fiber Display
Ready to print
Any recommendations for how it should be packaged?

Sending off to print. Containers were sent back to AOA with the display. Wanted to keep it all together. There is a need for smaller boxes. U-line has 9x9 boxes as a suggestion

5.0 Discussion: Fiber Extravaganza

- Key-note speaker ideas? Deb Robinson woud be a possibility but not in person, virtually which might need to be the cause for everything.
- Member Marketplace Discussion on how comfortable vendors will be because of Covid. 75% have committed to attended. Ruth felt that this is important for the fiber committee market place booth to continue and volunteered to be in charge. Eleni volunteered to help with this. Anyone can donate hours to help during the event.
- Fiber Arts Last year there were only 2 entries because of covid. Suggested that we allow products from 2020 and 2021 to be allowed this year. Other people can submit items from your fiber. Charlene volunteered to oversee this

6.0 Discussion: Work Groups--Google Drive

1. Zoom Breakouts—Next steps check in and move forward 15 min.
2. Group report-out; next steps
    a. Student Design *Ruth-timeline?
    b. Research Abstracts
    c. Logo/US Grown *Alyssa mock up?
    d. Fiber Arts and Skeins
    e. EPD Explained *Clarissa draft on how to use data?
    f. AOA Resource Review

Because of limited time this item was tabled until next month. Requested that each group work on their assigned task during the month and be ready for review in March.

7.0 Discussion: Develop a US Fiber Standard, Wini
Define what a US Fiber Standard would require and if we need one
What is needed is to define and review. What does this mean? Do we need this? Robin shared that at the July AOA board meeting this was discussed, and they need something can stand behind. Need to have this if alpacas are going to be added as a commodity. The committee was assigned to find other fleece standards for various animals and add this information to the google drive. This would be helpful for any example of how we should proceed. It was suggested that a conversion chart be added to this standard so that Peruvian names and standards could be converted to AOA standards.

8.0 Open Discussion All No other discussion

Eleni moved to close the meeting with Elaine seconding. All in favor
Meeting closed at 5:05 pm pacific time.