

**SSFC Board Meeting**, held January 18, 2022, Bemidji Public Library. Present were Dennis Engebretson, Carrie Jessen, Alethea Kenney, Trudy Delich, Kathy Belt, and Margo Hanson

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Alethea, at 12:35 pm.

Ara Gallo, Bemidji Library, explained his vision of a spring or summer event at the library, with the yurt as the focus. The hours would be from 10:00 – 3:00. The parking lot could be blocked off and ideally the event would be outside. The summer reading program runs from June 10<sup>th</sup> to the end of July, so hopefully Linda's schedule will work during this time. He wants hands-on activities for the kids, including make & take kits. We could also vend if desired. Ara plans to submit a proposal for a MN Legacy grant and also partner with the Historical Society, the Science center and possibly the MN Extension office and 4H. The SSFC would set up the yurt before the event. In lieu of paper instructions, Ara would prefer an online link or You-Tube video instructions for the felting and weaving kid-friendly projects. We could do a demo of raw fleece to finished product. The Board agreed that we should stick with projects we've successfully done in the past such as "Wet Felting in a Bag", "Cardboard Weaving" or "Kumihimo". Publicity will be provided by Ara, but we could also promote the event.

Scheduling will be dependent on Linda Johnson-Morke's calendar. If we could do it at same time as Art in the Park, there would be lots of people in Bemidji attending that event. We are also committed to the centennial in Gully, details following under new business.

Ara will be budgeting the event up front. We will need to provide our names, addresses, material costs for 100 make and take kits. Linda will need a hotel, meals, and mileage. By April 15<sup>th</sup>, Ara wants 2 possible dates, description of the event, graphics, info about the SSFC for a press release, including our Mission Statement, logo, contact info for \$300/person plus mileage. A set price for event was estimated at \$3,000. Contact information should be sent to Ara at [galloa@krls.org](mailto:galloa@krls.org) or call him at 218 751-3563

1. Treasurer's report was given by Carrie. The bank statement balance is \$3,765.55. There is an uncleared debit of \$233.50, which is rental for the FFF. Carrie will contact Russ about this. Estimated costs for the February Sheep Event include \$45.00 for Lammers Town Hall, \$300.00 for speakers, and estimated \$500 for the catered lunch. After discussion, it was decided that we will order egg rolls and fried rice based on the registration numbers. Everyone agreed that \$20.00/person for lunch seemed high and hopefully when we have the actual numbers, it will be lower. Kathy moved to approve the report, Trudy seconded. Motion carried.

2. Kathy read minutes from the October meeting, which was held at Margo's place, Trudy moved to accept the minutes. Carrie seconded. Motion carried.

### 3. Old Business:

Alethea explained that we (she) is still paying for the Fosston Fiber Festival email and website. The only remaining function is to direct those still using it to our current Farm to Festival website. Changes will also need to be made on FaceBook and Instagram. Alethea had tried to do this and ran into difficulties. She and Margo will continue working on this. We could notify members by email or FB of these changes when completed.

### 4. New Business:

A. Sheep Event, February 19, 9:30 – 2:00pm, at Lammers Town Hall. Alethea will make out a schedule for the day. Margo will put it as event on FB and do more promoting. Advertising was discussed. Advertising in local papers that are free is good but paid advertising is expensive and doesn't seem to be effective. It was decided to focus on free advertising, radio, and FaceBook. Board members were provided with flyers by Alethea, to post in their local towns. Kathy will contact KKDK radio and donate \$25.00 paid advertising. She will be listed as a sponsor. Dennis will contact the Fosston Radio station to be put on the community calendar. Trudy will call the Bemidji radio station. Margo will check with the Mahnomen radio station to see if they have a similar program. As Board members we need to ask local businesses to sponsor our events. Alethea created a document explaining the SSFC, which she will email to Board members again.

Alethea has presentation about SSFC organization for annual meeting. More discussion about costs and lunch are under the Treasurer's Report. Trudy will bring donuts.

Alethea will be doing some teaching with Stacy Descow, and asked if it would be a conflict of interest to have flyers at the Sheep Event. It was discussed and is not a problem. We will have table for brochures and FFF information which Alethea will provide. If SSFC members are putting on workshops, they could also list their own workshops on our website or FB.

B. The Hubbard County Fair was discussed. Russ needs a proposal by Feb. 3. The fair is July 13 – 17<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that with the Bemidji Library event and Gully Centennial, we don't want to over commit and will not be available this year.

C. Trudy is the contact person for Gully. They will let us know dates and more information in March. Basically, the Gully event will need a couple people to demonstrate spinning or weaving. They can be costumed. It should be an easy, fun event.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00. No date was set for a future meeting but will be discussed by e-mail or at the February Sheep Event.

Respectfully submitted, Margo Hanson, secretary