



*Nourishing the creative spirit in everyone*

## Minutes

**Present:** Kris Horn, Val Blaha, Sally Dallas, Charles Hillestad, Gail Watson, Donna Sires, Courtney Terry, Holli Wagner,

**Guests:** Deborah Weiner, Deb Broocks, Mike Santone

**Excused:** Cassie Sollars, Sally Dallas

### Introductions

Welcome, Mike! And Deb and Deb

### Approval of Previous Minutes (*from September 2021*)

Gail Watson motioned for approval of the Sept 2021 minutes as submitted.

Seconded by: Holli Wagner. Vote outcome: Minutes approved.

### Reports:

#### Financial Report... To be covered in November's meeting

#### Paper Gardens:

Deb Weiner: Deb B said she will coordinate; Deb W will take over coordination of book. Need someone to take over coordination of the celebration. Deb B is a former educator, former president of YCCO, participant in PG, etc.

Deb B: Deb W will be the "guide on the side". Deb and Nancy had divided up the tasks, and put them into smaller packages, for newer people. First job done: get date for Celebration (May 12). Will work on getting a reduction of the rental fees. Next job done: find judges. Now have 2 Barbara Drake (former Linfield professor, poet, etc, former PG judge); Henry Hughes (WOU professor, etc.) Both are excited about jumping on board. Deb is working with others on the publicity. Need to work on the funding. Have templates for entry forms, Nancy Hart has experience with schools, etc. Group has discussed going more digital (less paper). Hoping Holli can help with some of the digital/online aspects, launch with an E-vite, etc. Entry deadline will be March 3. Holli: Happy to help – will work with them.

Kris: Fire Writers – no current plans to bring it back. Deb W had proposed that surplus from Fire Writers (\$6083.38) be transferred to Paper Gardens. Seems like a good fit – both include writing, kids, etc. Cassie has said it would not be a problem. Deb W gave a rough budget. (see report) Board is asked to approve transfer funds to keep PG solvent to move forward, and allocate \$2500 out of FW surplus and apply toward 2022 PG budget. Going forward, PG volunteers will definitely work on fundraising, as they had in prior years, and perhaps get just a small stipend from the AAYC budget. (Last year Deb actually spent less than allocated.)

Holli Wagner motioned for approval of 1) transferring surplus funds from Fire Writers to Paper Gardens, and 2) allocating \$2500 out of the surplus and apply toward 2022 PG budge. Gail Watson seconded. Vote outcome: Motion approved.

### **Membership .... Holli, Val**

Holli: Shared the new website (including on phones). There's some default content. Could use some content on the home page (Team, etc.). Membership/join capability on the main page. At some point (future discussion) we need to figure out what members receive (why join, benefits, etc.) Could edit site so each program would have its own content, etc. Calendar – can update after every board meeting (should be an agenda item every meeting). Store – can also include AHST tickets, PG books, etc. Also has an about section. Courtney: will send details about grants, scholarships to Holli.

#### Discussions:

Charles: where does membership info go. Holli: to an email. Charles: would be nice to have a quick interaction with members, including new members sharing if they have any volunteer interests, and if they have any skills, business, etc. that they could help. Mike: willing to help...personal outreach is great. Deb W: the idea of someone contacting a new member is great. Kris: people have often contacted her after she sends them a card. Holli: Probably not ready to go live by 11/15. Val: expressed concern about missing out on Paypal/online memberships, but if the site isn't ready, we shouldn't roll it out. DebW: suggested putting “coming soon” on the membership packet info or letter. Holli: old address will point to new one, once old one is gone. Some discussion and suggestions about website url. Also, need a conversation in the future about mailing vs digital outreach (need both).

Val: Membership mailing – scheduled to happen in early November. Based on discussion today, will just use same Membership form as last year, since it includes a survey section (re: member interests, etc.), although only a tiny fraction of members wrote anything on that section for 2020. Holli had updated the Membership flier, but instead of using it (since there are still many unknowns for 2022), we'll add some of the program logos on the President's letter. The printing quotes are coming in at \$400 to \$500 (not including postage). Gail offered to print the letters/flier, envelopes/postage, and there was much rejoicing. Val will work with Kris on the letter.

### **Education, Teacher Grants ... Courtney**

Has received 5 applications. Newberg, McMinnville, Amity; at least 1 HS, 1 elementary. Has told applicants we'd get back to them by mid November. Deadline is Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Kris: usually several come in last week. Asked Val: re: criteria (like we did for the scholarships); Val will look at the Scholarship criteria, Ed grant applications, and create a rubric (also with input from Kris, etc.) Kris sent Val some background on the Ed programs for Org Handbook. Val will forward it to Courtney and Holli. Courtney would love to help catalog older AAYC documents... project for next year? Mike: space in a storage unit was donated by someone in Amity in the past. *(Secretary's note: we had discussed storage units at last meeting but didn't have time for discussion today.)*

### **New Business:**

1. Mike Santone applied for board membership. Electronic board election will be done.
2. Mike: presented a new county wide poetry program to be under AAYC umbrella. Wants to get poems in front of people (physically) so it can enrich their lives. Wants to convince people that just like with the Little Libraries, poetry will be beneficial. The “Poetry While You Wait” program is an example of poetry. Another example is having Poetry in the classified ads. First stage: talking to people re: posting. Then

working out designs for various kinds of posts. Curation: hosts could curate their own, but some orgs may want AAYC to curate, and then we'd set up criteria. This would expand AAYC's visibility.

Discussion:

Holli: Asked about where, how. Mike: committee would need to figure out, by talking with businesses, etc. Can also talk with designers, to figure out how to create something for display. Kris: For her real estate listings, she has “perma fliers” made which are ~\$20, weather proof, etc. Gail: printers can easily access the material. Mike: this program is a throwback to AAYC programs, which were started by AAYC, and run by AAYC. It's part of what makes an organization being vital... doing programs out in the community, promoting art. Courtney: would love to help. Can also go to the City – Parks and Rec, Senior Center, etc. Kiwanis, etc. Charles: maybe work with Public Arts committee re: sculpture, etc. Kris: what about a “Poetry Porch” could attach to Little Library. Holli: can buy a laminator for very inexpensive; also, thinking about other businesses, like manufacturing plants, etc. Val: shared Hawaii bulletin board with quote... would be cool to have roll out or Poetry month with poems in unexpected places. Mike: shared his Little Library. Funding: we don't know yet. Could designate funds, or Mike buys, donates in kind. Once there's a sense of acceptance, participation, etc, he could go for grants. Chuck: *Poems scattered here and there. What a great way for all to share.* Holli will send info on laminator.

## **Old Business:**

**1. Update on the Diversity statement** (*discussion postponed due to time*)

## **2. Organizational Handbook update**

Val: has received some program reports – thanks! Hoping to use some of the info for the website, etc., and planning to get a draft to the board by late November. Please send to Val when you get them done.

Next meeting: Monday November 22, 6pm, Zoom