



Minutes of the MOPACA Board of Directors' Meeting, ~~10th August 2nd March~~, 2017

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Present: Steve Rush, Terry Passanante, Theresa Kaiser, Sheri Jacoby, Patti Jones, Stacey Blank, Beverly Stock

The meeting was called to order by Steve Rush at 8:07pm. For the record there was no board/officer meeting in July.

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Treasurer's report- Theresa had questions on what each Fiber U report was. Patti advised ~~that~~ the other report we were seeing was Fiber U's bank statement, because she has not received the Fiber U check register to reconcile it. \$1,275.00 is what Liz/Audrey advised Fiber U made. Steve is going to follow up with Liz/Audrey regarding getting their banking information to Patti now that it is past 30 days. Patti does not believe that Fiber U's check register will match the bank statements due to adjustments that Liz/Audrey made. Patti will do the work to reconcile it correctly. Reports approved.

MOPACA discussions-

Steve recapped the ~~informal~~ July membership meeting which was held July 15, 2017 at ~~went over~~ Fiber U. There were approximately 7 members there, ~~that most~~ were un happy with MOPACA and advised that they thought the MOPACA believed membership was a waste of money. "What's in it for me?" was the prevailing attitude. Steve sent emails to Debbie Hoerl, Beverly Stock, Sheri Jacoby, Stacey Blank, Patti Jones, Terry Passanante, Theresa Kaiser, Jeanette Campbell, Sharon Heimes, Liz Mitchko, Liz Vahlkamp ~~some members~~ letting them know ~~that~~ we would be discussing the future of MOPACA. Discontinuing MOPACA ~~it~~ is something ~~that~~ we must have a membership vote on. It has been suggested by many ~~{board/officer members and MIAS committee members}~~ to not discontinue operations ~~dissolute~~ until after this year's show, if we do go that route. We need to decide either to keep MOPACA together or dissolve after this year's shows.

Steve advised Liz Mitchko and Audrey Kruse are retiring from having alpacas that we are having problems from Fiber U and several members that are looking at retirement. and Fiber U's attendance was down significantly. Alpaca fiber was certainly not predominate as it once was.

We spoke about handing-transferring Fiber U to Liz/Audrey and not a MOPACA event, being a part of it any more.

Beverly suggested ~~that~~ we keep Fiber U, but change location. However, contracts for 2018 are already in place, making that difficult. Also, MOPACA has a lack of volunteers to make this possible.

MOPACA owns the Fiber U URL right now, we would have to sell it to Fiber U and remove it from MOPACA completely.

Steve advised that legally, he believes, we have to put terminating Fiber U under a vote to separate MOPACA from Fiber U and make changes to our bi-laws/manual.

Theresa and Patti asked if we needed to provide "seed money" to Liz/Audrey to start their own organization event. She also asked about all of the supplies and materials; etc. that Fiber U has built up over the years, - paid for by MOPACA. Steve suggested once the 2017 Fiber U checking account information has been given to Patti and reconciled, the Fiber U checking account should be closed and funds moved to the main MOPACA account. No "seed money" is necessary or appropriate given the nature of our organization, having Liz/Audrey give all of their registers, etc. to Patti and move all of Fiber U's money to the main account and not provide seed money. We may be required to sell the Fiber U URL to make this all above board and legal.

It was suggested was brought up that if we take Fiber U off of off MOPACA's plate, we will have more resources and positive energy to focus on other areas. It was advised that wWe need to as a nonprofit, provide educational opportunities for our members on alpacas as a nonprofit organization.

Theresa had previously suggested at the July meeting to sending a letter to members asking for volunteers, and she will follow up with this.

NO motion was made to seek dissolution of the MOPACA organization. All board members and Officers are in agreement to attempt to keep MOPACA in operation running. It was agreed also in agreement to send a letter in a "matter of fact" tone, to advise members about our discussion and the emergent-urgent need for volunteers in order to move forward with MOPACA another year. The letter will also

~~advise what we need and the problems MOPACA has faced from not having volunteers.~~

Theresa asked about looking into how to change ~~bi~~-laws for running more efficiently without as many people. Are there other structure options for MOPACA? It was asked if board members could also be officers. Patti and Steve advised that in MO, you MUST have a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, Officers and three board members to stay registered.

Steve mentioned, ~~that by the way~~, he had received the tax clearance information to renew with the state and that should be done within the week. Our CPA is needing a copy of our minutes, monthly. Also, MOPACA will need to “dot our I’s and cross our T’s” if we will be doing ~~bi~~-law changes, as well as have members vote formally.

Patti will be doing the letter draft to members and everyone will be sending thoughts/suggestions for the letter, which will be sent out in September.

As a group, we have all agreed to do everything we can to continue with MOPACA. It was unanimously agreed to start the process to divest ourselves of Fiber U and that Fiber U’s accounts will be closed and the funds will stay with MOPACA.

Steve thought that Fiber U’s budget did have some compensation for their work, in addition to free memberships with MOPACA. It was decided that we will sell the Fiber U, URL to Fiber U (Liz/Audrey). We will discuss the value amount at the next meeting. It was discussed to also ask for two years of a free booth.

Steve will speak with his lawyer about making sure that the separation of Fiber U and MOPACA is done correctly, and with correct terminology. It was advised that there will also be a stipulation in the contract that Fiber U and MOPACA must part on good terms and not deface each other’s organizations.

2018 MIAS proposed budget-

Patti asked Debbie Hoerl about the early bird stall specials. It was decided to have the early bird specials as:

Early bird member- \$135

Early bird nonmember- \$145

Which would increase profits by over \$400

Theresa is going to suggest to Debbie to add stall incentives to volunteers.

More MOPACA discussions-

Theresa also proposed trying a virtual “in person” phone conference for \$19.00 a month for 10 people and \$29.99 for 100 people. It also has the option for calling in, if members prefer not to do the virtual option. Good connection option?

A MOPACA grant was brought up. We had it in the budget for previous years to benefit members to help with the cost of trying to have an educational event on their farm. Patti advised that there was nothing in the budget for it. Steve proposed that if it’s an educational event, MOPACA would help with social media exposure. MOPACA just can’t afford to give money, and we aren’t offering grants at this time.

Beverly asked about Open Herd members. Stacey will start to check nonmembers and remove them. Theresa will follow up with Open Herd regarding our benefits and how they work.

Newsletter- Liz Mitchko was not happy with the newsletter. She suggests having a calendar of events on the MOPACA home page. Theresa suggests making a print out for farms to have something to hand out about MOPACA/alpacas at their farms alpaca farm days’ event. Steve suggested ~~also maybe~~ starting a member farm feature. Steve will follow up with the university (again) about an article for the next newsletter.

Meeting adjourned 9:44 pm by Stacey