

Georgia Association of Woodturners Board Minutes

May 27, 2020

A called meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of Woodturners met by video conference on April 29th, 2020. A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order by President Kim Muthersbough.

Attendees included

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kim Muthersbough, | President       |
| Andy Bennett      | Treasurer       |
| Ed Perkerson      | Secretary       |
| Tim Robertson     | At Large        |
| Charlie Levan     | Past President  |
| Steve Mellott     | Program Chair   |
| Frank Bowers      | At Large        |
| Steve Pritchard   | Webmaster       |
| Elisabeth Ross    | Symposium Chair |
| Absent"           |                 |
| Harry Saunders    | Scholarships    |
| Open              | Vice President  |

**Secretary's Report**

Andy Bennett moved that the minutes of the April 29 meeting be approved. The Motion was seconded by Steve Mellott. It was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Approval of the Treasurer's report was deferred to the next meeting; some members of the Board had not received the Report.

**Symposium**

The principal reason for this meeting was for the Board of Directors to consider whether or not to go forward with the annual Turning Southern Style Symposium. Elisabeth Ross, the chairwoman of the Symposium Committee had previously reported that we were required to report to the Dalton Convention Center management what our intentions were by June 1, 2020. Ms. Ross also reported that the Committee members unanimously recommended against holding the Symposium. Ms. Ross moved that the Symposium be cancelled; Steve Mellott seconded the Motion.

Discussion of both the Motion and the situation in general followed:

- It might be possible that our \$2,000.00 deposit be refunded depending on the circumstances; if the Symposium and/or other large meetings cannot be held because of governmental or health restrictions, the Convention Center might refund the deposit. On the contrary, if there are no restrictions and the space could have been used for large meetings we would lose the deposit.
- Ed Perkerson suggested amending the Motion to state that we could not reasonably hold the Symposium due to either/or restrictions or health risks, based on the information that is available at the time that the decision is required.
- Consideration was given to the possibility of booking the site for a 2020 Symposium, perhaps using the current deposit.
- Note that negotiations are still ongoing, but the situation is very fluid.
- Steve Pritchard has conducted a survey of those who attended the Symposium last year. One third of those attendees responded that they would not attend in 2020.
- The potential loss of the deposit is much less than the loss we would incur by conducting an unsuccessful symposium.
- Other information considered is that the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts has cancelled all events for the remainder of 2020; the John C. Campbell Folk School has cancelled events through the end of July.
- The discussion emphasized that our decision must be for cause, not simply convenience.

President Muthersbough called for a vote on the Motion, as amended, that is: "That we cannot responsibly hold the Symposium under present circumstances and expose attendees to health risks based on current recommendations." The Motion passed unanimously.

Follow up actions:

- Elisabeth Ross and Steven Mellott will craft appropriate verbiage to use to inform vendors, demonstrators and the AAW.
- Elisabeth Ross is to contact the Dalton Convention Center and advise them of our decision.
- Steven Mellott will contact demonstrators and inform them of the decision.
- Elisabeth Ross will inform vendors.
- Steve Pritchard will update the web site.
- Elisabeth Ross will inform the AAW.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Perkerson, and seconded by Andy Bennett.

The Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for June 16, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Edgar Perkerson  
Secretary

Addendum: on June 2, 2020, Elisabeth Ross informed the Board members by email that a group is requesting to book the facilities for the 2021 dates on which the Symposium is normally held. We have the first right of refusal for those dates but the Center's policy only allows us 24 hours in which to either release the dates or put down a deposit to secure the dates. A Motion was to transfer the deposit was made by Kim Muthersbough with an implied second by the Board members. Email responses were unanimously in favor of transferring the deposit in order to reserve the usual and customary dates.

Edgar Perkerson  
Secretary