Alamance Artisans Board Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2024

In attendance were Anita Vigorito, Mary Archer, Dottie Blanchard, Gia Woods, Terry Cott, Donna Vitucci, Deb Barnett, Deb Ussery

President Anita Vigorito called the meeting to order at 2 pm.

**Election of New Officers:** New members Gia, Donna, and Terry were welcomed. Dottie was nominated and approved as the new Vice President; because no one has yet stepped up to replace Mary as treasurer, she agreed to serve for one more year. Anita was approved to remain as President (Jean Kaplan resigned as copresident); and Deb Ussery was approved to continue as Secretary.

**Outreach/Patrons Committee**: Dottie reported on Patrons. Dottie, Jean, and Wayne Drumheller will be workingon letter templates for renewals (to be sent out prior to each Patron's last contribution anniversary). A letterand Patron forms are on our website for online and mail-in donations. One idea that was floated was Patrons-in-kind—for example, an artist teaches classes for Alamance Artisans and is given a patronage.

**Events/Exhibition Committee:** The Center for Creative Leadership update exhibit is through March 2024. There were more than 200 in attendance at the reception, and more than 220 pieces have sold. Big thanks to Dottie for her super coordination of this exhibit.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided not to have an Extravaganza like we have had the past few years. We will concentrate on potentially smaller venues, again in collaboration with other organizations and in different forms.

***Alamance Arts:*** The Artisans’ next exhibit at Alamance Arts is scheduled for May 27, 2025, through June 27, 2025. The contract is signed. Details to come. Deb Ussery is the coordinator.

**Grants**: Donna Vitucci has volunteered for this committee. A lengthy discussion started with Donna talking about how important diversity is in being awarded grants. Alamance Artisans needs outreach to attract people of color and younger artisans in particular. Do we need a public relations campaign? Can we improve outreach by partnering with other organizations? Offering classes was discussed as a form of outreach—we can rent space at Mebane Community Center or Alamance Arts. What about booths at fairs, such as the Burlington Carousel Festival. Pop-up art events? It was suggested we tap into art students in the Alamance schools, in particular Art Honor Societies. Ultimately, the Board agreed that we should take a year to explore all these options before applying for any more grants.

Meeting adjourned.