

GLPG Board Meeting

12/12/2023 at 3:00 pm in the Guild Clean Room.

Present: Barb Sears, Pamela Timmons, Charlie Seebeck, Sara Laitala, Paul Stokstad, Tim Sime, Mike Hamm, Liz Meyers, Wenfen Pan, Deb Cole (by Zoom)

Approval of minutes

The Board unanimously approved the October 2023 minutes.

Car kiln update (Mike Hamm)

The car kiln has been fired 12 times since August 1. Overall, it is firing well and evenly. There have been refinements during every firing, including shortening the chimney and adjusting the lower shelf height, bag wall, and target bricks. There are still some cool spots in the back, and one spot (back bottom) with less reduction. Mike has been keeping the kiln in moderate reduction from 1650-until about cone 9. Chris Iott has been taking charge of the lighting. Mike has been doing all the firings and is working on training others on the new kiln. He is planning on splitting the firing task into a morning and an afternoon shift, as was the case in the past.

The Board discussed firing frequency. The new kiln is larger and is taking up to 7 carts of ware to fill. The Board brainstormed ways to encourage members to do more work at the Guild and get more pots into the kilns.

Class payment system

Madhu has set up an invoicing and payment system through QuickBooks. QuickBooks will charge about a \$10 fee for processing a \$275 class payment (that charge may rise slightly when the class fee goes up to \$300 in January). The Board approved a motion to start allowing class payment to be made either using the new online system (for which we will charge students an extra \$10 processing fee) or by check.

Facilities update (Barb Sears)

The floor drain, which was completely plugged with clay, has been cleaned out. It will need to be cleaned out about every other year. The cleaning cost \$550; might be cheaper if cleaned more often. The Guild ductwork was cleaned for \$930. Barb will get an estimate from an electrician to put the lamp in the kiln yard on motion detector, install a better light for the parking lot, fix the bathroom fan, and rewire the grinder in kiln yard and the heat lamps. The Guild will purchase a new pedal from Runyan for the spare wheel in the materials shed.

Education update (Barb Sears)

The Education Committee has considered and rejected a proposal to reduce the clay allotment from 50 to 25 pounds. The Education Committee is considering whether to lift the vaccination requirement.

The Board discussed whether instructors should be allowed to serve on the education committee. (Barb Hranilovich and Tim Candy will be new instructors in the summer.) The policy in the past has been that instructors cannot be on the education committee because of a perceived conflict of interest. Some members of the committee feel it would be helpful to have instructor input on the committee; one member of the committee remains concerned about conflicts of interest. The Board approved a motion that membership on the education committee be open to all full members of the Guild regardless of whether they are instructors.

Pot pricing (Tim Sime)

Tim Sime has been researching how much members are charging for mugs and how much work goes into making a mug. Prices charged for mugs at the last sale varied from \$10 to \$38, with \$25-30 being the most common. The Board agreed in general that our prices need to go up in order to cover increasing expenses and maintenance. The Board also discussed the need for increased revenue generally, and decided that it would make sense to have a membership of the full meeting in January to discuss those issues.

New business

None.

Next board meeting

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 p.m.