

Timber Framers Guild
Board of Director's Meeting

June 29, 2011

Meeting opened at 7:15pm

In attendance:

Joel McCarty – Executive Director,
Lisa Sasser – President,
John Miller – Treasurer,
John Mumaw – Clerk,
Randy Churchill,
Adrian Jones,
Gabel Holder

Missing was Chris Gunn and Clark Bremer

The meeting was delayed by excessively poor reception from the conference call provider.

John Miller indicated that the financials were distorted by unearned revenue and that he expected them to look much better by the end of June or early July. John felt that the post by Joel on Basecamp titled Poland Expenses wasn't very helpful because it didn't relate back to the budget. Joel said that there was only about another 36 hours for the project to wrap up and so far there were no financial surprises. All indicators point toward the project being profitable. Lisa said it couldn't come at a better time. Joel pointed out that both TTRAG and Fort Worden lost money. However the auction at Fort Worden did very well, particularly considering the low attendance. This was due largely because of some vacation get-a-way donations from Chris and Leif Calvin. What was supposed to be the big ticket item didn't do very well, only generating \$2,500. Joel asked if there were any more questions or comments about financial matters. John Miller said that with membership still dropping or staying even that there are still issues that need to be addressed. While the Poland project has been good it's not a long term plan for success.

Joel said that he would offer one bright note and that was that the audit was 21% less this year than last year for the same service from the same firm. Joel feels that this was due to us being prepared and well organized going into the audit. Adrian asked if this audit was a requirement for being a non-profit. Joel answered that no it was rather a requirement for being a non-profit in the State of Massachusetts. Joel said that he was looking into incorporating the Guild in New Hampshire where they had no such requirement. There is a possibility for that changing in New Hampshire but we should know in a week or two.

In terms of membership our numbers are still down but the revenue is on target. Joel is looking to partner with the International Log Builders Association and the Carpenter Fellowship essentially creating joint memberships in all three organizations. Joel does have about 280 leads from Trillium Dell that he needs to pursue. These were leads that Rick Collins paid his staff to develop and that he has turned over to the Guild.

Joel said that the apprenticeship committee is moving along. Ted Benson asked about a bequest to the apprenticeship/scholarship of \$10,000 on behalf of a friend. Joel felt that the apprenticeship committee was deliberating too much about whether to accept (mostly because they wanted to know more about who was being memorialized). The memorial is for the son of a woman who has a long term relationship with Benson Woodworking and who wants to support apprenticeships.

Joel said we accepted two more apprentices this week. One from Trillium Dell and one from Teton Timber Frames. Joel said that there was a spreadsheet available on Basecamp that detailed the standing of all of the Apprentices. Lisa asked if the Apprenticeship committee was up-to-date with their reporting requirements to the Dept of Labor and if they had any reports due this summer. Joel said they had reports due every month and that Rocco has taken over the reporting. Joel said that right now they are having a problem finding people to write the curriculum and that he was hoping to appeal to the board to help. Lisa suggested that it might be time to talk to Judy Hayward again.

Joel said that one of the things that was accomplished this month was the development of a banner to announce that persons working on the site were apprentices in a recognized apprenticeship program. This was developed so that timber framers working on a prevailing wage job could have some defense against organized labor.

Joel said the the ILBA had as a new president Higgs Murphy and that they wanted to do a joint conference with us at Asilomar. Joel pointed out that there were numerous issues to be resolved but most everyone agreed that it could be a good thing. Adrian suggested that while it might be difficult the first time, the second time we partnered with them it would be a lot easier.

Joel said that the conference committee meets once a week to work on Leesburg. He said that they are committed to expanding the preconference workshops from one day to two, filling the extra day up with apprenticeship related material. He said that Al Cobb had committed to a two day offsite SIP workshop. The conference committee also is considering reducing the length of the conference by $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day partially to accommodate the expanded preconference workshops and partially to help reduce the cost of the conference and possibly attract more attendees. He said that they are going to advertise in Home Buyers Publications about the conference. We are also going to open the trade show, slide show, and auction to the general public again. Joel said that the conference committee has decided to have a demonstration track and that they were looking for four $\frac{1}{2}$ day demonstrators.

Joel said that he, David Blackwell and Brenda Baker were going to make a site visit to the Delaware Water Gap to check things out for the 2012 TTRAG conference. There was some discussion that flights into Dulles for the eastern conference might be getting too expensive. Even though the shuttle from Dulles to the conference site was very convenient and inexpensive, Joel said that he would look into what kind of shuttle arrangements could be made from BWI.

Joel said that advertising was over performing 2010 but under performing our budget. Lisa asked whether Ken's questions and concerns had been met yet. Joel said that he was still working on it but he was making progress. Joel also said that his hopes for the economy in on-demand printing had not worked out, mostly because we very much like having our material printed on high quality paper and in color, and that at that point offset custom printing becomes competitive. However it still looks like short runs are on the order of 1,000 copies and at \$21.00 a copy that's a big investment for the Guild. Joel said that by next month we should have more information on smaller quantities.

Joel reviewed the revised strategy that Lisa, Ben Weiss and Joel have come up with. Ben Weiss is volunteering to help with the redesign of the web page by coming up with a template that can be evaluated to ensure that it meets criteria put forth by the board and the publications committee. Joel suggested a white board on Basecamp that we could all contribute to. John Mumaw mentioned that a version of the web site optimized for mobile devices would be nice. Joel agreed and pointed out that the Gwozdziec blog did have a mobile version available.

Merchandise sales are off budget by 3.4%. Also the people who manufacture the timber carts the Guild sells are going out of the timber cart business. Joel is investigating getting someone else (possibly the Northcotts) to take that over. Joel said he would have more news next month.

The Polish project is winding down. We all agreed that the blog by Ed Levin was great. The leadership team has been chosen for Wason Pond. Will Truax will be head up the leadership team. The engineering is complete and the shop drawings by Mike Beganyi should be finished this evening. Alicia Spence will handle the project management. The rookie instructor is Michael Whitman. So far 23 people have expressed interest in participating. PTN is taking the lead on a Tybee Island Georgia project. We should have more information on this project by Tuesday. And lastly the folks in Lexington will be paying us this year to design a bridge to be built in 2012.

Randy said he would like to revisit the staff health insurance issue. He asked for someone to help him. John Miller offered to help.

John Mumaw asked about the Guild nominees for board of directors. Joel said he had received one nomination today, which wasn't enough but it was a start. Collin Beggs suggested Trey Warren would be a good candidate. Collin also suggested Joe Miller. Lisa suggested William Collins.

John Mumaw asked about the minutes for April and May and whether they could be approved. Several members said they had seen and read them. Joel suggested that we call them approved and said he would post them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

Respectfully submitted by John W. Mumaw