

Friendship Force of Wisconsin Madison Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2016

The Chamber of Commerce Building

The following Board members were present: Lise Skofronick, Sandi Wysock, Donna Hussin, Judy Taylor, Stephanie Sorensen, Gail Holmes, Lois Schulz, Helen Ann Rugowski, Jerry Fuller,

Excused Absent: Mary Lindquist, Janet Lonergan, Maggie Dohm, Nancy Brown

Agenda: As presented

Secretary's Report: Lois Schulz - correct the date of the December meeting to December 18th. Minutes approved as presented

Treasurer's Report: Judith Taylor – report approved as presented

Presidents Report: Sandi Wysock -

Asking everyone to keep in mind our goal and our vision as stated on the Friendship Force International Web site. We love to travel and show people our area but we should not lose sight of our top goal which is to connect to others across cultural barriers

We received a nice thank you message from Jeremy Snook for our contribution to the "I'm In Campaign".

The letter was forwarded to the board.

Old Business:

Re: Budget: Prepared with Judy Taylor, Mary Lou Martino, and Stephanie Sorensen & Sandi Wysock.

Figures are drawn from last years' actual expenditures. We have categorized and assigned. Committee chairs should look at the allocations and submit proposed changes to Sandi with reasoning before the next board meeting where we will review and finalize the budget. We should also have a better read on our income from dues by then.

501 c3: Nothing changed.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon: Set for April 10th. Gail Holmes will be handling location, reservations and menu for the meeting. Because the Coliseum Bar is not open on Sundays, we could not hold our meeting there. The Great Dane East on Cottage Grove Road was contacted and they would be please to host our group. Motion made and seconded by Donna Hussin and Lois Schulz to approve. Passed. Menu to be decided. We talked about having a business meeting and a program to share about our recent and upcoming exchanges both incoming and outgoing. Donna and Helen Ann will work with Sandi on a program.

March New/Potential Membership Meetings: Monday, February 1st, 7:00 PM, and Saturday, February 6th. 10:00 AM.

Both meetings will be held in the Landmark club house located at the corner of Coachman and Caddis Bend in Fitchburg. This corner is one short block straight ahead from the front entrance of the Great Dane Pub, Fitchburg.

Mary Lou is responsible to invite the people who have indicated interest during the International Festival, and bring refreshments. Members are needed to share their experiences and help answer questions.

If you can help her with set-up, and clean up. You should arrive at least 30 minutes before the starting time.

In friendship,
Lise Skofronick
274-7732

Mary Lou Martino
(608)467-2966 marylou10@charter.net

Bio in Newsletter: Mary Lindquist. Discussion on length and how many at one time due to the space available in the newsletter. Decisions will be made as new members are added and express willingness to contribute their bio.

Revision of Club Bio on FFI web site: Gail Holmes is working on this and has already updated some information.

I'm In Project: money was sent to international. \$1000.00 from our club treasury and \$1130 club donations.

New Business:

Strategic plan: Sandi shared some of the slides from a strategic planning session at the International Conference. We can go on a retreat and work the entire day on developing a strategic plan or we can take in smaller bites. Typical nonprofit board responsibilities include establishing a mission, planning, monitoring programs, protecting assets, developing a competent board, ensuring integrity/ethical operation and advocate/raise profile of the organization. Board elected to work on individual topics beginning with membership.

Report from Exchange Coordinator Gail Holmes:

All five ambassadors from our club have paid in full for the exchange with the Florida Club of Greater Orlando from March 11-18. Nancy Brown is coordinating the Wisconsin group.

The Cleveland County, England outbound exchange from May 11-18 is ready for travel. Stephanie Sorensen and Nancy Brown are the CO-EDs.

The inbound Nashik Riverside Club from India has received a list of 20 potential ambassadors. They are a younger group, ranging in age from 15 to 65. It is anticipated that a total of nine host homes will be needed. There are three groups of three persons, one single male, and the remainder are couples. An invitation letter was sent January 5 to assist ambassadors in obtaining their visas. It appears from the list that eight members already have visas. Helen Ann Rugowski and Jerry Fuller are the CO-EDs.

For the inbound exchange from San Jose, Costa Rica, ED George Wysock is in the process of creating a committee. Those willing to help are Pete Marion, Dan Eggerding, Mary Mastaglio, Maggie Dohm and Nancy Mueller as treasurer. Soon they will meet to plan a possible agenda.

Committee Reports Standing:

Activities – it was suggested that we ask Dave Dohler to do a second e-mail to membership reminding them of upcoming activities, timing this about two weeks before the event. to remind members.

Upcoming for February Book club February 2nd, and Evening with Mary Bergin February 20th. See newsletter for full details.

Communication –Dave Dohler-Website. Future communications – www.ffwis.org

Membership – Mary Lindquist—70 members have signed up. People who have not submitted form and dues to be called before final count is submitted.

Newsletter – Donna Hussin-articles to Donna by Midnight, Wednesday, February 24th. Also talked about the cost of mailing out the newsletter especially as it seems to be getting bigger each month and more pages increase the cost of printing and postage. The cost will stay the same for now, and be relooked at in the fall.

Outreach – Lise Skofronick: International Festival was a success. 37 persons signed and gave us their contact information indicating they would be interested in being contacted later on. Committee is suggesting that we ask again for a different site as the entertainment noise was so loud that it made it very difficult to visit with interested people.

Historian – Janet Lonergan no report

Committee Reports – Special Committees:

Ad Hoc Committees:

Nomination committee: Sandi has appointed Margo McKnight as chairman of the nomination committee.

Audit Committee: George Wysock will head the audit committee and is looking for knowledgeable and interested members to assist him

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting is February 18, 2016 at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted: Lois Schulz, Secretary