

**Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.**  
Board Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2016  
Bridge Point Community Center

Present: Sandi Wysock, Judy Taylor, Stephanie Sorensen, Mary Lindquist, Janet Lonergan, Lise Skofronick, Gail Holmes, Donna Hussin, Lois Schulz, Jane Kessenich, Martha McGregor

Excused Absent: Sandy Drew

Absent: Audrey Liimatainen

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Stephanie Sorensen requested that she give a short preliminary report on the membership survey results.

**Secretary's Report:**

The minutes for August were approved as submitted unanimously. The minutes for September had a correction in the section regarding dues for families - Nancy Brown seconded the motion (not Judy Brown). The September minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Report was submitted prior to the meeting. No further comments and it was approved as submitted.

**President's Report:**

1. A small committee (H. Rugowski, N. Brown, J. Lonergan, M. Linqvist) will be working on rewriting the Board manual. Descriptions of Committee's duties were distributed and will be redone if necessary. Please provide any input you have.

2. Sandi requested that Board members let her know as soon as possible if they will need an excused absence as we need to be certain we will have a quorum at the time of the meeting. We often have deadlines and must have a quorum vote within a particular timeframe. She tries to write this data down as she receives it to track anticipated absences.

3. Sandi reminded Board members that we all have different skills, knowledge and abilities to contribute and that we should all respect each other. We are a stronger Board with this variety of abilities to contribute.

4. Sandi requested that Board members talk to each other when planning to bring up an issue related to another's area of responsibility so that all relevant people can be prepared when they come to a meeting. Significant decisions about issues related to any particular Committee should not be made at a meeting the relevant person cannot attend.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Re-approve business motions carried at the Sept. 21, 2016 meeting.

Because there was some confusion about the presence of a quorum of the new Board present on September 21, we need to revote on all of the business that was passed that day. This included:

- A. appointment of Members-at-Large Audrey Liimatainen and Martha McGregor;
  - B. a refund to the Winnipeg ambassadors who had a family emergency;
  - C. align our dues with FFI international for those age 18 or less;
  - D. approve the mentoring program proposed in September;
  - E. approve an ad hoc Marketing Committee (T. Maiola, H. Rugowski, T. Miller, D. Dohler).
- It was moved (L. Schulz) and seconded to accept all these issues as a group. Approved unanimously.

2. Rank order our request for outbound exchanges for 2018.

Sandi submitted our four top requests to Adrienne Moen as she had requested. There was no overlap with other nearby clubs. It was reported that the voting by the general membership was quite close leaving it to the Board to rank-order our top choices. After some discussion, it was moved (S. Sorensen) and seconded that we rank-order our choices as: # 1 South Africa, # 2 Japan, # 3 Chile, # 4 India. Passed unanimously. Will be submitted to FFI.

3. Proposed Bylaw changes

Some small changes are needed to align all of our Bylaws with each other, with our preferred practices, and with the FFI rules. If we are able to make these changes at this meeting, we can submit them to the Membership for approval at the Christmas Party.

Changes proposed are:

A. Article III, Section 1 - Members: Remove reference to "family membership" totally. Insert "Family members age 18 and under residing in a member's household are not required to pay dues." Moved (G. Holmes) and seconded. Approved unanimously.

B. Article IV, Section 1 - Board of Directors: Remove "one" member at large and replace with "up to two members at large". Moved (D. Hussin) and seconded. Approved unanimously.

C. Article VII, Section 1 - Committees: Add: "The Board may appoint a Co-Chairperson when necessary to fill a position. Each will be considered to be a member of the Board." This change would allow each person so appointed to vote at Board meetings. There was some discussion of the pros and cons of expanding voting membership. Moved (G. Holmes) and seconded to approve this change. Approved unanimously.

D. Article VII, Section 1 - Committees and Article IV, Section 1 Board of Directors Due to the function of the Exchange Coordinator as a single person more like the Newsletter Editor than a Standing Committee Chair, it was suggested that we re-word these two bylaws sections to reflect this. Totally remove "Exchange" as listed under

Standing Committees (VII, 1). Add "the Exchange Coordinator" to IV, 1. Moved (D. Hussin) and seconded. Unanimously approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Survey Update: Stephanie Sorensen reported that:

- A. 29 responses had been received.
  - B. Most people are in the Club to travel and host as well as promote peace.
  - C. More interest in international than domestic trips and hosting.
  - D. Some reluctance to travel with other clubs.
  - E. Most are willing to come to meetings, read the newsletter, and eat in various ways.
  - F. Less interest in doing service projects or taking responsibility for any particular thing.
  - G. Some level of interest in several activities such as book group, cooking classes, wine or beer & cheese tastings, travel talks, music events.
  - H. Lots of interest in day trips or overnight trips to nearby areas, clubs or festivals.
- Next steps - bring to Christmas Party to distribute and meet with Membership to coordinate data about what people can and will contribute. Donna Hussin agreed to work on day or overnight outings with Lois Schulz agreeing to help.

2. Reading Reports at meetings: Anyone with any new information to report was encouraged to submit reports to all Board members by email prior to the meetings so that we can devote time to discussion as opposed to reading reports.

3. Newsletter proposals re: Exchanges - tabled. Is it better to have a liaison from each committee submit articles or have each person doing the event/exchange, etc. submit also discussed briefly.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Exchange Coordinator:** Gail Holmes reported that:

- A. All 2016 exchanges have been successfully completed.
- B. Dates have been established with the incoming and outgoing exchanges for 2017.
- C. Lise & Maureen are attempting to increase the hosts for Guadalupe so that everyone who has applied can participate, not yet resolved. Most interviews done.
- D. Peg Hutnik has volunteered to do one of the weeks to Canada in 2017.
- E. Several domestic clubs would like to come here (Denver, Western North Carolina, Lower Columbia, Washington).

Moved (G. Holmes) and seconded that the negotiated exchange dates for 2017 be approved: San Diego here May 19 - 26; New Caledonia here June 23 - 29; to Medicine Hat Aug. 8-14 and to Vancouver Aug. 14 to 22. Unanimously approved.

Moved (G. Holmes) and seconded that Peg Hutnik be approved as and ED for part of our outbound to Canada in 2017. Approved unanimously.

**Activities Committee:**

Jane Kessenich reported that:

- A. The committee met and discussed possible activities for the year.

B. The committee proposed to change the picnic to coordinate with the end of the New Caledonia Exchange. She will work with the ED when one is found.

C. Another meeting is scheduled for November.

**Outreach Committee:**

Lise Skofronick reported that she will provide a fuller report at the next meeting with ideas for new ways to reach out to the community.

**Membership Committee:**

Mary Linquist had no new members to report - she is sending them out to the Board as they join.

**Historian:**

Janet Lonergan had nothing new to report.

**Newsletter:**

Donna Hussin encouraged people to send her articles early as she will be out of town late this month.

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

Sandi Wysock reported that the Finance Committee will meet Nov. 3 and that she is organizing a meeting with Terri Maiola to get marketing going following approval of committee members as was done in this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:05 PM

Next Meeting scheduled Nov. 16, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Sorensen, Secretary