

Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES of March 14, 2018
Lakeview Bridge Point Community Center

Present: Sandi Wysock, Stephanie Sorensen, Janet Lonergan, Judy Taylor, Peg Hutnik, Kathy Speck, Audrey Liimatainen, Tom & Donna Miller, Gail Holmes

Excused Absent: Mary Mastaglio, Martha McGregor, Lois Schulz, Donna Hussin

Additions to the Agenda: none

Minutes: Use of the word "alias" with regard to the website was clarified as correct. Change the amount of the advance to Niagara journey to \$330. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: approved as submitted.

President's Report: See written report. Sandi thanked the Membership Committee as well as others who helped orchestrate a successful 40th Anniversary/Membership drive event last Sunday. She also updated the Board on the website. It is up and running. More things are being added. It has great pictures. There may be some minor changes as we go forward to formatting, but it is so much improved from the original website thanks to Dan Eggerding and Allen Reiland. Sandi is also working with Mary Linquist on Mail Chimp so that we can separate lists and then use specific messages for potential members as well as the email blasts to remind members to sign up for various activities. Board members and potentially other responsible people will be able to input things directly and send emails to the lists rather than having everything reside on Mary L's and Dave's computers.

Standing Committee Reports

1. Activities: No written report. the June picnic will have music and dancing. Gail reported that the one day bus trip planned by her and Donna is scheduled for May 23 to Yerkes Observatory and a train ride with lunch for \$85. 30 people are needed to go on this trip - both minimum and maximum. . It was also suggested that we do increase our service options as part of our activities and Second Harvest had been previously discussed.

2. Outreach Committee: See written report. International Festival went well - thanks to all who helped. Face book activity is increasing some.

3. Membership Committee: See written report. 111 people attended the 40th Anniversary/Membership event. 20 new members joined. It was very well received and Kathy thanked all involved - many people contributed. Kathy will compile feedback from everyone who reports any suggestions which she encouraged everyone to do.

4. Historian: Nothing new to report.

5. Journey Coordinator: See written report. The Indonesia journey went well, and winter experiences can be considered again in the future. Both the Niagara incoming and the Japan outgoing journeys are proceeding well in the planning stages. Interviews have been conducted for Japan and a workshop has been scheduled for March 25.

6. Newsletter: Donna was unable to attend the meeting and mailed a report of things that are due for the next newsletter. We need articles for Adopt a Highway as well as the WHA Auction, journey assignments for next year, upcoming journeys and calendar dates.

Ad Hoc Committees

1. Updates to Board Manual: Mary L. continues to work on this as she can.

2. Accumulated Funds: A request was submitted to the committee for \$150 to pay for the Taiko drummers for the Annual Meeting. The committee recommends the Board give final approval for this expenditure. Moved by Tom Miller, seconded, and unanimously approved.

3. Audit Committee: the audit is being worked on and will be submitted prior to the Annual Meeting.

Old Business

1. Annual Meeting: Peg has been working on the meeting of April 29 and it will be held at the Radisson. They have been very accommodating thus far. We will have a buffet lunch. We will be able to bring our own cake and Stephanie will investigate cake options. Sandi and Martha will work on the program.

2. Strategic Plan: Sandi reviewed the progress on our strategic plan thus far. We set a goal of 40 new members. We have more than 20, but still need to always continue our recruiting. Our mentoring program is ready to begin with these new members. Diversity was also a main goal, but we have not made much progress in this area. We discussed briefly some ideas for creating more visibility in the community, but this is a challenge. All of our Journey Coordinators are in place for scheduled journeys. Eventbrite - a date to achieve more use of this set for August. The website is progressing well, but relevant members now need to learn how to use it effectively. Sandi is working with Dan and Allen to define who will do what.

3. After Work Programming: Sandi reminded the Board that we need to consider other meeting times for newer members who are still working and there were some suggestions

of kinds of events. Milwaukee does a 6th at 6:00 event every month where they meet at different places always on the 6th of the month at 6:00. People can come after work and it is easy to calendar, but the days of the week will change and this also helps attendance. There are many outdoor concerts in the evenings in the summer that would also work well.

New Business

1. 2019 Journeys: Our assignments for 2019 are Aichi, Japan inbound in Sept. and the Central Coast and Tweed Valley in Australia for Oct. It turned out that New Caledonia could only host 2 weeks and they were assigned 3 - we lost out. We can potentially request additional time in Australia if desired. Sandi made a motion that we accept these assignments. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

There is a long time gap between our 2018 and 2019 journeys. Some suggestions for filling this are a biking inbound themed journey or a music oriented themed journey that members spoke to Sandi about. There was encouragement to pursue these more active journeys to help engage newer and younger members.

2. Health and Mobility Issues: Sandi reported that one person was denied travel to Japan due to mobility issues. She emphasized that this is an issue particularly for Americans and that some clubs will not even accept American visitors. It has been an issue at several of the international conferences. She encouraged everyone to continue to carefully define the physical requirements for the journeys and that we have a variety of levels. She will write an article for the newsletter to reiterate the FFI guidelines.

3. Automation: Mail Chimp and Eventbrite were discussed earlier in the meeting. We need to start using these effectively. Square worked very well for accepting new memberships and we could continue to use this technology.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Sorensen, Secretary.

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