

Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes - June 6, 2017
Lakeview Bridge Point Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 pm.

Present: Sandi Wysock, Judy Taylor, Gail Holmes, Donna Hussin, Mary Mastaglio, Kathy Speck, Lois Schulz, Martha McGregor, Peg Hutnik and Treasurer elect Mary Juckem

Absent: excused: Tom & Donna Miller, Janet Lonergan ; unexcused: Audrey Liimatainen

Additions to the Agenda: Costco membership; Second Harvest project; earlier input for 2020 Journeys

Secretary's Report: Minutes from April 11 approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: April and May reports approved as submitted.

President's report: Sandi thanked everyone for taking time to review our new technologies and encouraged use of them as well as ongoing documentation. She also gave a brief report on the Super Regional Conference and sent documents to all Board members to review from the conference (Club Self Assessment, Characteristics of Strong Clubs, and brainstorming of how Journeys could be different in the future).

Standing Committee Reports

Activities: No written report. A meeting was recently held to brainstorm ideas for additional activities, but no one volunteered to head new things. The picnic plans are going well and we expect an excellent turnout for the picnic. Magda has scheduled continuing hikes. There was a good turnout for the WPT Auction. The highway cleanup was cancelled due to rain, and will be rescheduled. A question was raised about the status of a continuing project participating in work at the Second Harvest Food Bank. The person from the committee has not followed up to schedule this. Gail Holmes volunteered to organize the Second Harvest project, and it was agreed that this belongs under to auspices of the Activities Committee. Gail reported that the recent bus trip resulted in a profit of \$135 for the Club and the bus was full. It is important to have a variety of activities -- hiking, LEO's, service projects, bus trips, book meetings and new kinds of things in order to have something that appeals to our wide variety of members and which will keep people engaged in the Club.

Historian: No report.

Membership: Kathy reported that we now have a total of 142 members including 30 added this year. Mentors are being assigned to all new members. 12 of the new members are involved with the incoming Niagara group and 4 will be going to Japan. She is still waiting for all of the expenses to come in before giving a final financial report. Kathy was asked about statistics about new members (such as if they are working or retired, background, etc.). She will pull some data together for our next meeting.

Outreach: No report this month.

Journey Coordinator: Everything is ready for the incoming Niagara, Canada ambassadors arriving June 9. Open World has assigned us a group from Georgia to come to study urban/environmental planning and clean air September 7 - 15. This is a more academic, less sight-seeing oriented group. We have been given \$4000 to develop an appropriate program to educate the participants on how to develop appropriate planning policies in a developing country. We need someone to lead this. Sandy Drew has some contacts we can contact, but we need to get going on this soon. Gail made a motion to approve the dates of Sept. 8 - 15, 2018 for this program. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Kathy and Magda are continuing to work on our Japan outgoing Journey beginning Oct. 27. 15 ambassadors from our Club are going and they are seeking 5 more. This Journey is being advertised. They have ongoing activities planned for the Club around this Journey.

2019 Journeys will include Medicine Hat coming probably in July, Aichi Japan coming here as well as Iowa in September, and our outbound Journey to Australia will likely be in Oct. of 2019. We will need leaders for all of these Journeys.

Newsletter Editor: Donna reminded us of the next newsletter deadline of June 27 and reminded us that Annual Meeting Minutes as well as Activities articles are needed.

Ad Hoc Committees

Accumulated funds: Nothing new to report; no requests received.

Nominations Committee: The final report of this committee was submitted and elections were held in April. Absentee ballots did not count towards a quorum according to our bylaws. Should this be revisited? Are these luncheons getting too expensive (we were very close to the minimum number needed) and would a different approach work better? Things to think about going forward. Gail moved that the committee be dissolved. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee only looked at Club finances; not specific Journey bookkeeping. The report was produced and distributed to the board. Sandi made a motion

that we accept the report and dissolve the Audit Committee. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Mary Lindquist continues to work on updating the Board Manual as she is able to do so.

Old Business

Open World: See discussion under Journey Coordinator Report.

Global Journeys: We've discussed having some planned Global Journeys that we can use when we are not assigned an international incoming Journey. Several ideas have floated around as well as the possibility of working with another nearby Club. We need to think about what kind of orientation we want such a Journey to have and what kind of ambassadors we would like to attract. It was mentioned that such Journeys are generally two weeks long. Some themes to consider are biking, music, outdoor Wisconsin. We should spread this out and not just do Madison. Sandi will go back to some of the people who had ideas giving them some parameters about how long, who we want to attract and see what specific ideas they can develop.

Automation/Website/Security: Most Board members attended a meeting last month to learn about our new technical systems. The Webmasters produced a report that raised several issues for the Board to consider. One is publication of email addresses or phone numbers of people listed in the newsletter to respond to for various events. We have generally left it up to the individuals involved. This was discussed briefly and the Board agreed to leave as is. We will not "sanitize" newsletters to remove this data (which would have involved two versions of the newsletter).

It was also agreed to ask Houston if we could use their history of FFI on our website introduction (Sandi will do this).

Martha moved to approve the one-time \$40 requested by the Committee to be able to mount slide shows on our website; it was seconded and passed unanimously. Blogging about the Journey is also encouraged.

The cost for the https secure site (\$50 per year) was discussed, and it is felt this is not needed at this time, though it would be if we accept money directly through our website. We are not doing this now and do not plan to in the immediate future.

Another request is for Jetpack personal which would back up the site each day. Judy moved to approve this expense of \$39 per year. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

We briefly discussed the necessity of a "Board only" area of the website. It was agreed that we should be as open as possible with members and that budgets, financial reports, agendas, minutes and manuals should be in the "members only" section, but a separate section should not be created.

Costco Membership: Stephanie found it necessary to have a membership for FI to avoid the sales tax at Costco and added the Club as the second member on her card. She will purchase things that are best to buy there such as paper goods, cakes, etc. if contacted by the person who needs the item(s).

Earlier Planning for Outgoing Requests: after a brief discussion, Mary M. agreed to tabulate information from members on their choices of where to go in 2020 as we will be asked in September. Ballots will be brought to the picnic as well as any other upcoming activities.

Strategic Planning: It is time to review our planning goals from the past year to evaluate how we have done in accomplishing them, to see which are still relevant, and to add any new ones needed. A shorter version of our "retreat" is proposed for July 11. Peg will follow up on scheduling/organizing this for old and new Board members.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Sorensen, Secretary