

Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2018
Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd

The meeting was called to order at 12:37.

Present: Sandi Wysock, Peg Hutnik, Kathy Speck, Martha McGregor, Audrey Liimantainen, Janet Lonergan, Lois Schulz, Gail Holmes, Donna Hussin, Judy Taylor, Mary Mastaglio, Stephanie Sorensen

Treasurer-elect: Mary Juckem, Member at Large: Magdi Sebestyn

Excused absence: Tom Miller, Donna Miller, Helen Ann Rugowski

Additions to the Agenda: Magdi would like to add a discussion regarding an email communication tool to be used between members.

President's Report: Sandi reported that she had nothing to add to the President's report except that there will be approximately \$1000 added to the treasury from the Open World experience.

Secretary's Report: No changes were noted; report was approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: No changes were noted; report was approved as submitted.

Standing Committee Reports:

Activities. Mary Mastaglio reported that there were nine people that participated in the bike ride. Adopt-a-highway will meet on October 4 at 9:30. Magdi's hikes have had mixed participation, but she has agreed to continue offering hikes after the Japan journey, possibly some winter hikes and snow shoe walks. The September Second Harvest volunteer opportunity will be on September 27, 12:30-3:30. Gail Holmes added that she has reserved a room at the Fitchburg Library for our fall membership meeting to be held on October 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Historian. Janet Lonergan, Donna Hussin, and Mary Lindquist have been working with the State Historical Society to arrange for storage of our records. Donna reported that all records from 1980 through 2013 are ready to be submitted, after sorting, discarding all duplicates and making sure everything is in chronological order. The records from 2014 to the present need to be turned over to the historian. Secretary reports from Jan Weber, Lois Schulz, and Stephanie Sorensen need to be submitted. Also missing are meeting agendas and committee reports. Gail has printed copies of the missing reports and will be submitting those to the committee. Treasurer's reports, both monthly and annual need to be submitted. Kathy asked if the Historical Society will accept digital records beginning in 2018. Donna will report that information at a future meeting.

Membership. Kathy reported that there are 143 current members. Of those who were members in 2017, nineteen did not renew and five of those were new members.

Outreach: Tom asked that we make a motion to participate in the International Festival held at the Overture Center in February 2019. In the past we have gotten several new members that join, and therefore it is useful to attend. Peg Hutnik made a motion that we have a booth at the International Festival in February, seconded by Stephanie. The motion was approved. Tom and Donna Miller are planning a trip to Ukraine for May 2019. This is an outgrowth of the Open World event from 2017 but the trip is not a part of Friendship Force. They are asking for

permission to add an article to the newsletter. The board agreed with the requirement that there would be a cultural connection which is in line with the objectives of Friendship Force. Their plan is to go to Kiev and Lviv. The suggestion was made to contact clubs there to arrange for a three night stay.

Journey Coordinator: Gail presented highlights of her report. The Niagara club has returned \$107.08 to the club treasury and the Indonesia Club has returned \$14.34. The Open World is completed. Planning for the journeys to Aichi and Oita Japan continue. Peg has arranged a textiles program for October 4. The pre-departure meeting will be on Sunday October 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Fitchburg library. In-coming for next year will be Aichi Japan who will visit Cedar Rapids Iowa club first. The dates have not been confirmed but possibly September. Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada will be here from July 2 to 9, 2019. Our out-bound international journey will be to Central Coast and Tweed Valley. Australia in October 2019.

Newsletter: Donna Hussin reported that no one has volunteered to be editor to replace her as she is retiring. She has offered to do the September newsletter, and the deadline is September 26.

Accumulated Funds: Martha McGregor reported that \$900 of the original \$2000 has been spent which leaves a balance of \$1100.

At this point the meeting was transferred to the new board.

The Committee Chairs for 2018-2019 year were introduced; Helen Ann Rugowski, Membership; Gail Holmes, Activities; Jante Lonergan, Historian; Stephanie Sorensen, Journey Coordinator; Tom and Donna Miller, Outreach; and Audrey Liimantainen and Magdi Sebestyen, Members at Large. Kathy Speck made a motion to approve these positions, seconded by Peg Hutnik, approved by the board.

Old Business: Mary Mastaglio reported on the results of the member survey conducted to determine the club's 2020 journey preferences. The four countries getting the most votes were, in order, Canada, New Zealand, England, and Switzerland. Gail Holmes made a motion that we submit a 2020 request for the first four choices and adjust with the next 4, seconded by Martha McGregor, approved by the board.

New Business

Dues Increase: Friendship International will increase their portion of the dues for 2020 from \$15 to \$20 per member. Since the bill for 2020 must be paid in November of 2019, dues for 2019 would need to be increased by \$5. Gail made a motion to increase member dues to \$35 for 2019, seconded by Kathy, approved by the board.

Representatives to the International Conference: Peg proposed that since the conference will take place on the Boulder College campus that we might be able to defray costs for additional board members to attend. Since the board manual specifies reimbursing 2 members, it would require a change in policy to do that. Friendship Force International has asked for clubs in the west and midwest to plan a pre/post conference journey. This would be a short 3-4 day stay costing about \$160 (\$80 for the club and \$80 for FFI) for each person. FFI would need a decision before January when the information materials for the conference are out. Further discussion on this was delayed until the October meeting. Peg volunteered to put an article in the October Newsletter.

FFI has new brochures available. Tom will order some for Outreach committee.

Newsletter Ad Hoc Committee. Peg reported that none of the people she called to be editor were willing to commit to a monthly newsletter. The proposal from the subcommittee was that

the newsletter move to a bi-monthly format to be published after the 15th of the month allowing for news from the board meeting to be included. In addition, there would be no printed copies. Those members who do not have email or computers or printers would be matched up with a buddy who could print a copy for them. Eventbrite and mailchimp are tools to be used to disperse information in the interim between newsletters. The subcommittee prepared a table of suggested publication months and the articles that might be included. A full report is attached to these minutes. Mary Mastiglio made a motion to move to a bi-monthly newsletter publication schedule, seconded by Sandi, approved by the board. Additional discussion suggested that there should be a follow-up report after several months on the bi-monthly schedule.

Email communication tool for members: Magdi suggested that we look at a form of electronic communication that could be used for members such as Google Chat. This was tabled until October. Magdi will present more information then.

Fall Membership Meeting Agenda: Peg asked for suggestions for the fall membership meeting. Some members might give short talks about their journeys or Open World. Since we will meet at the Fitchburg library, AV equipment is available, so an Eventbrite presentation might be included. Also, a short presentation on the on the features of the rebuilt website would be useful.

The October meeting will be at Bridge Lakepoint Waunona Community Center on October 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42.

Respectfully submitted by Martha McGregor.

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