

Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2019
Bridge LakePoint Community Center, 1917 Lakepoint Dr., Madison WI

Sandi Wysock called the meeting to order at 12:33.

Present: Sandi Wysock, Kathy Speck-Kemeny, Martha McGregor, Mary Juckem, Gail Holmes, Magdi Sebestyen, Helen Ann Rugowski, Agnes Rona, Peter Kaufman, Dorothy Baldwin, Stephanie Sorensen.

Excused absence: Open Historian.

Minutes. Martha McGregor mentioned two changes that were made based on board member input. Gail Holmes moved that the minutes be accepted with those changes, Mary Juckem seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Mary Juckem said that the two new members paid for badges and that money will be refunded to them. Gail mentioned that we have 133 bags left for journeys. Gail moved to accept the report for audit, Kathy Speck seconded, and the motion carried.

President's Report. This was Sandi's year-end report. She will send Mary the link to make the membership payment to FFI. There is a link on the FFI site to enter current club information and for members to sign up for the FFI newsletter. This information will be posted in the January newsletter for the membership.

Journey Coordinator. Stephanie reported that there are 21 ambassadors that have been accepted for the biking journey, with a possibility of accepting one more. The committee will report to FFI that the journey is full and then accept names for a waiting list. Dan Eggerding has been working on the New Caledonia-New Zealand journey. He is working with Dale Moore to see if there are other ambassadors that would like to go to New Zealand only; New Caledonia cannot host any more people. Tom Miller is working on the final report for the Australia Journeys with pictures. Stephanie asked that we ask for volunteers to be journey treasurers as our list is now limited. There was some discussion about the reimbursements for journey coordinators. Currently 5% extra is added to the ambassador's fees for the journey to cover the coordinators' expenses. Stephanie moved to cap the fee at \$100 for each ambassador for outbound journeys, Gail seconded, and the motion passed. This policy will be added to the journey coordinator's manual in the procedures and policy section. Open World will have 5 delegates, a facilitator, and an interpreter. Ten people signed up to host or provide dinners at the membership meeting.

Outreach. Dorothy reported that the International Festival is on February 29 at the Overture Center. She will be requesting volunteers to work the table. She has not been able to schedule a time to meet with Tom Miller to complete the transition. She will submit a 2020 budget request for \$250. Tom and Donna Miller made a presentation about FFWisconsin-Madison to a rotary club.

Membership. Helen Ann reported that we have two new members, Joe and Janet Passaniti, who attended the book club event. New member Larry Neuman paid his dues at the membership meeting.

Activities. Gail reported that there are new dates for some of the activities which will be reported in the January newsletter. At the membership meeting she asked for suggestions for new activities. The Annual meeting will be on April 4 at Middleton Glen Community room. Dining on the

6th is a new activity that will need volunteers to host. The first 6 months of 2020 are filled. The activity committee will still do LEO's at random times throughout the year. WHA, which is now PBS-Wisconsin, will sponsor the Garden Expo on February 9th, and there is an opportunity to volunteer from 12:30-4. Volunteers will receive free parking and admission.

Ad Hoc Committees.

By-Laws. Sandi and Stephanie have been discussing the possibility of changing the historian position and adding two new positions. The options for the historian position would be to add those duties to the secretary's position or retain the position and change it so that the historian is not a board member. The board has a responsibility to retain records for financials. The records including board minutes, monthly reports, journey reports are sent to the State Historical Society for safe keeping. Gail moved that the historian position be retained but not as a board member, seconded by Dorothy, and the motion passed.

Sandi is proposing two new board positions. The board had a lengthy discussion about the value of adding a programming and/or a communications position to the board. The discussion was intended to give the bylaws committee some direction. It was recommended that the bylaws committee consider the possibility of adding a board position for programming. We agreed that a communications position would have significant overlap with existing board positions.

Accumulated Funds. No report.

Old Business.

Budget. Sandi reported that we have donations of \$125 for delegates, \$340 for general use, and \$100 for membership. Future considerations are to support the delegates to the 2020 Super Regional meeting in Minneapolis, donations to membership, and \$300 subscription for one year of 'Meet-up'. These items will be discussed further at the January meeting.

New Business.

Membership Meeting. Sandi sent 38 personal email invitations to new and current members to invite them to the membership meeting in December. This type of personal contact seemed to work well to encourage participation.

We may need a way to evaluate if our current communication methods are working for our members. Peter Kaufman volunteered to track the response of members to MailChimp communications, website hits, and facebook posts to answer that question.

In past years we have donated funds to the Bridge Lakepoint Community Center. Agnes moved that we donate \$250 to the Bridge Lakepoint center, Kathy seconded, and the motion carried.

Nominating committee. Gail volunteered to chair the nominating committee. Agnes moved to accept Gail as the nominating committee chair, Mary seconded, and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be January 8, 2020 at 12:30 at the Bridge Lakepoint center.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58.

Respectfully submitted by Martha McGregor.