

**Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.**  
Board Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2020  
Via Zoom

Sandi Wysock called the meeting to order at 12:36.

**Present:** Sandi Wysock, Kathy Speck-Kemeny, Martha McGregor, Mary Juckem, Dorothy Baldwin, Peter Kaufman, Helen Ann Rugowski, Magdi Sebestyen, Agnes Rona, Doug Johnson, Vice President-elect.

**Absent:** Gail Holmes, Stephanie Sorensen, Diana Rodum, Secretary-elect.

**Minutes.** Kathy Speck moved to accept the minutes as submitted from the March 4 and April 13 meetings, seconded by Mary Juckem, motion passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Agnes Rona moved to accept the treasurer's report as submitted, seconded by Dorothy Baldwin, motion passed.

**President's Report.** Sandi mentioned that a discussion of items from the Midwest president's meeting held the morning of May 13 will be discussed under New Business.

**Activities report.** Sandi mentioned that the next Cocktails on the 6<sup>th</sup> which is a Saturday will be hosted by Sandi and George Wysock at 4:30. They will have a question to start the conversation. Nineteen attended last time.

Magdi reported that there are 15 signed up for the May Let's Walk activity.

**Journey Coordinator.** No Report.

**Newsletter.** Agnes reported that its difficult to prepare the newsletter because there is not much to report. Please submit ideas and stories if you have something. A possible idea is to have stories from older members or past journeys. Magdi will send the announcement for the Let's Hike activity in June. Tom Miller might submit items from his travel blog. Sandi mentioned that Marina from St Petersburg in Russia has contacted her about working with parents of autistic children here to help them build an autistic residential home in Russia. This is an outcome from the Open World that we hosted in March 2020. Mary suggested that there should be an email blast for the 50% matching funds for donation to FFI that will end on May 30.

**Outreach.** No report.

**Membership.** Helen Ann will send a repeat email to the interested individuals that signed up at the International Festival. She thought we should have a party to re-open the club. She will pursue the possibility of a Zoom Book Club.

**Old Business.**

**Committee Goals.** Sandi reminded that the committee chairs should submit their specific goals for the year if they have not done so.

**Member Match for FFI.** A generous member will donate a 50% match for any donations that other members make prior to May 30. Mary reported that currently 20 members have donated a total of \$2030 with the addition of \$1015 from the match for a total of \$3045 to be sent to FFI.

## **New Business.**

**Member response to emails.** Peter Kaufman reported that members are receiving emails, 60 were opened and 43 did not.

**Up-date from the Midwest President's Meeting.** Sandi reported that FFI fund-raising total was \$218,000. Lynn Hargreave reported that the total will be \$275,000 which includes the checks that must be entered manually. Their goal is \$341,000 to carry them through 2021. They have received donations from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, and Europe. New journey information will be on the FFI blog. Our 2020 journeys to New Caledonia and New Zealand and our biking Wisconsin have been cancelled. FFI requests that we postpone 2020 journeys to 2022 and allow the 2021 journeys to stand as planned. Some 2021 journeys could remain as planned if both clubs agree on the terms of the journey. Our members could drive to both the Dallas and the Niagara and Toronto Canada journeys scheduled for 2021. That will ease any fears of commercial travel. Our incoming from Oita Japan will be negotiated directly with them. FFI would like clubs to try not to cancel 2021 journeys and allow the clubs to work out the details. They are especially encouraging the international journeys while domestic journeys are a lower priority. Air fare may be an issue for some members. Also, the availability of a Covid-19 vaccine and testing may affect individual's travel plans. Also, the travel groups may be smaller.

Stephanie will contact respective people from up-coming journeys and Kathy will check with her contact Kikumi in Oita. Hank Weiss has re-scheduled the Bike journey for September 2021, but it is unknown if Hank will continue to coordinate that journey or whether the participants have expressed their preference to participate.

**New Caledonia exchange rates.** When funds were transferred to New Caledonia, there were multiple times when the exchange fees were charged. In the future it would be beneficial to ask FFI to help with money transfers so that these expensive exchange fees can be diminished. All the funds from the New Zealand journey have been refunded. Helen Ann mentioned that the administrative fees from each ambassador for each journey were to cover these transfer fees.

**Milwaukee Picnic.** A joint picnic with the Milwaukee club had been scheduled for June 13. The board agreed to cancel that. The possibility of a Zoom meeting with them might still happen. Also Zoom reunions with participants and hosts of previous journeys will be explored.

The next board meeting will be June 10, possibly a Zoom meeting again.  
The meeting was adjourned at 2:02.

Respectfully submitted by Martha McGregor.