

Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes October 14, 2020
Via Zoom

Kathy Speck Kemeny called the meeting to order at 12:30, welcoming Lise as the new Chairwoman of the Membership Committee.

Present: Kathy Speck Kemeny, Diana Rodum, Mary Juckem, Peter Kaufman, Magdi Sebestyen, Agnes Rona, Gail Holmes, Stephanie Sorensen, Mike Lambert, Doug Johnson, and Lise Skofronick.

Excused Absence: Dorothy Baldwin, Sandi Wysock.

Minutes. Gail Holmes and Mary Juckem asked that a sentence about FF pins be removed, and the motion was seconded and passed to accept the minutes, minus that sentence.

President's Report. Kathy noted how it is no longer "business as usual" through the pandemic and that our challenge is to keep our members more engaged.

Treasurer's Report. Mary Juckem reported that there have been very few expenses. She noted that we have a credit at Holy Wisdom for the deposit that had been made for the September bike journey that had to be cancelled. It was moved to accept the Treasurer's report and it was passed unanimously.

Journey Coordinator. Stephanie reported that Japan has decided to postpone their visit until 2023. Canada is also changing their plans (refer to Journey Comm. report). Stephanie suggested inviting the two clubs that we visited in Australia last year for a visit to us in 2022. Both Australia clubs are interested.

Program Committee. Mike and Magdi stated there was nothing to report. Being a newly created committee, they have recently met and plan to organize goals by the next meeting and go from there. Mike suggested in the Program Activity Report a new focus on native Americans such as the Ho Chunk up in North Dakota. Mike is attending a webinar about the Ho Chunk Native Americans that is being offered through the Crane Foundation. This was one of several Crane Foundation events that Helen Ann had identified, some of which were already past. It was suggested that this is a good example of the type of cultural program that we can notify our members about when there is sufficient advance notice.

Activities. Gail noted that activities will be dwindling due to the weather. The Drinks on the Driveway on October 6th was a success. Three members, Kathy, Diana, and Stephanie hosted. Eighteen individuals attended. No additional Drinks in the Driveway are planned due to cold weather.

- Magdi led 3 hikes in September and October and was very lucky with good weather. Jan Hornback led bike rides 3 times as well. Magdi and Jan may offer spontaneous events, weather permitting. Members will need to email Jan or Magdi if they want to be notified of those spontaneous activities.
- Second Harvest service is always the last Thursday of the month. Five members volunteered last month.
- Book Club met on October 12 and discussed The Night Watchman. The next meeting is November 30 to discuss Hmong in Wisconsin.

- Adopt-a-Highway will be October 21. The contact is Stephanie Van den Bush.

Outreach. Dorothy Baldwin was out of town and unable to attend but had indicated that she had nothing to report.

Membership. Lise announced that it is time to send renewal forms. New forms were sent this morning for board review by Mary Lindquist. Kathy displayed the new form on a split screen and Lise explained how it is to be filled out. The membership list's details were discussed, such as a suggestion to put code "c" next to the cell phone number and indicating whether a member could translate a foreign language as well as speak. Lise's committee will discuss reformatting the membership list and report on it at the next meeting.

The fee on the new member form shows a discounted \$20 fee which needs board approval. The \$20 fee covers the fee that the club sends to FFI. It was moved and seconded that new members get the discounted fee of \$20 for 2021 and it passed unanimously. It was suggested that the form be changed to cross out \$35 and prefill the blank with "\$20 – Special 2021 Covid fee". There is only a paper form for now, which may be printed and mailed or scanned and emailed.

Ad Hoc Committees.

Electronics. Peter will copy the events from the newsletter into the events calendar on the web site and notify the organizer to confirm the item. Organizers can notify Peter of additional events that can be posted throughout the month rather than waiting for the newsletter. Agnes asked if the Newsletter should have membership renewal forms and will discuss with Lise.

Old Business. None.

New Business.

501c3 Requirements. Kathy will send out Conflict of Interest forms which the board members must fill out as well as a gift report form. This is an annual requirement for non-profit status.

Newsletter. The deadline for articles in the newsletter is October 23. Articles on journeys are desired., perhaps even a small article about a "virtual journey" offered by FFI which are reportedly a lot of fun. Kathy mentioned info about State Dept. programs for study abroad. Lise suggested linking to the FFI site's activities and publishing small bios of members.

Goals and planning for 2021.

In preparation for 2021 goal setting, Kathy reviewed the Vision for 2022 document and asked for comments. There were numerous ideas discussed, including:

- How to encourage membership diversity
- Local Festival tabling and articles in community newsletters
- School international days speaking engagements
- Social Media
- Attract younger people via Nextdoor

Action Items.

Committee chairs should study the goals and come to the November board meeting with proposed goals for their committees and ideas for accomplishing the goals.

Would a member survey be helpful? It was concluded that there is not much enthusiasm for surveying member interests at this time due to limited response from past surveys.

Magdi asked whether there might be interest in the club purchasing face masks with the Friendship Force logo. High costs for setup fees would require a bulk purchase of 100 or more masks. Kathy will bring up the idea at the next FFI Midwest Leaders meeting to see if there is interest in a bulk purchase.

Next Meeting. November 11 at 12:30 – 2:30, via Zoom.