

**Friendship Force of Wisconsin - Madison, Inc.**  
Board Meeting Minutes March 10, 2021  
Via Zoom

Kathy Speck Kemeny called the meeting to order at 12:30.

**Present:** Kathy Speck Kemeny, Diana Rodum, Mary Juckem, Peter Kaufman, Magdi Sebestyen, Gail Holmes, Doug Johnson, Sandi Wysock, Dorothy Baldwin, Agnes Rona, Stephanie Sorensen, Lise Skofronick, Mike Lambert, Sandy Drew.

**Excused Absence:**

**Minutes.** The motion to accept the minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting was seconded and passed.

**Reports.**

**President's Report.** Refer to Kathy Speck-Kemeny's President's Report in the appendix attached to these minutes.

- The Ad Hoc Covid Safety Committee will begin meeting this month and report to the board to open discussion, and then report to the Mid-West Leaders meeting next month where other chapters will exchange ideas. Dave Kalan in the Milwaukee chapter also reached out to our club requesting to exchange information on this topic.

**Journey Coordinator.** Refer to Stephanie Sorensen's Journey Report in the appendix.

- Our club has been assigned the following outbound and inbound journeys for 2022:
  - Toronto outbound
  - New Caledonia and Christchurch, New Zealand outbound
  - Dallas outbound (possible to occur in Fall 2021, as previously scheduled, pending lifting of travel restrictions and agreement of both clubs)
  - Tweed Valley, Australia inbound

**Treasurer's Report.** Refer to Mary Juckem's Treasurer's Report which had been sent by email to the board.

- The board had no questions about the report. Agnes moved to accept it, Magdi seconded, and it was approved by unanimous vote.
- There has been no activity this month except for the addition of \$12 in interest.
- Kathy reported that the financial audit was completed last week. The committee consisted of George Wysock, chair, Mike Di Iorio, and Sandi Wysock. George Wysock provided a written report, which concluded that the financial records were complete and accurate. Kathy displayed it on our screen.
  - Peter moved to approve the audit report, Gail seconded it, and it was approved by unanimous vote.

**Program Committee.** Refer to Mike and Magdi's Program Report in the appendix.

- Kathy complimented them on the variety of programs they have offered to keep our members engaged.

**Activities.** Refer to Gail's Activities Report in the appendix.

- There were many successful activities since our last meeting, and several are scheduled:
  - Book club will meet on 3/22 to discuss The Other Americans.
  - In anticipation of warmer weather, we may be able to have some outdoor meetings in May.
  - In April the Board will discuss guidelines for in-person gatherings.
  - There will be no Dining on the 6<sup>th</sup> in April.

**Outreach.** Refer to Dorothy's Outreach Report in the appendix.

- The Madison International Festival took place February 27 and included a link to our website but no inquiries were received.

**Membership.** Refer to Lise's Membership Committee Report in the appendix.

- Membership count is 98 with the prospect of two new members who had expressed interest.
- Several members of the Board did not receive the report and Lise will resend it to them.

### **Ad Hoc Committees,**

**Nominating Committee.** Sandy Drew is chair of the nominating committee, which also includes Marjie Marion and Sandi Wysock. Sandy reported that current board officers Kathy Speck, Doug Johnson, and Mary Juckem agreed to serve another term. The committee is looking for a secretary to replace Diana Rodum, who has health issues that preclude her serving another year. Board members thanked and complimented Diana on the minutes.

**Electronics.** Refer to Sandi's Electronics Committee Report in the appendix.

- Sandi highly praised the work Dan Eggerding and Allen Rieland have done on the website and we discussed how best to express our gratitude. It was concluded that a token gift of a \$50 Amazon gift card and a note from Kathy was the best option as we could never adequately compensate them. Lise made the motion, Mike seconded it and it was approved unanimously. Sandi will get the gift cards.
- Sandi was asked why there is a blank area on the website home page, and she explained that it is a space to display current journey information.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Annual Meeting: Kathy**

- Kathy related the results of the survey of members' preferences for the annual meeting:
  - Only 31, 1/3 of members, responded (67 did not).
  - Saturday afternoon was the most popular time.
  - Almost all can use ZOOM. It was suggested that a link to the FFI Zoom tutorial be sent to members.
- Lise will enlist volunteers to call the 60 non-responders and other members to encourage meeting participation. A quorum of 25 people is required to hold the meeting.
- April 24 was decided on for the meeting, opening at 3:30 for informal conversation, with the business meeting beginning at 4:00 and ending at approximately 5:00. Diana motioned to accept it, Magdi seconded it and it was accepted unanimously.
- The agenda received much discussion.

- It was concluded that having break-out rooms for discussion would require too much time and that it would be desirable to keep the business meeting succinct, to hopefully take only an hour.
- Gail suggested distributing guidelines for Zoom etiquette.
- Rough outline of business meeting agenda:
  - Journeys
  - Covid safety guidelines
  - Highlights from 2020/21
  - Member appreciation
  - FFI changes
  - Recruitment of volunteers
- The invitation will include guidelines for participants and a link to a ZOOM tutorial.
- Details of upcoming journey assignments will be withheld until the meeting to entice attendance.
- A gallery of photos from this past year's club events may be presented for some fun.
- Kathy will draft an agenda and distribute it for comments.

### **New Business:**

#### **Newsletter. Agnes.**

- Agnes requested that members send her copy to post in the newsletter by March 25.

#### **Open World. Sandi**

- Open World is encouraging virtual reunions, probably between the most recent groups.
- Open World has yet to decide how and when exchange journeys will resume.
- One possibility is conducting virtual meetings to introduce delegates to hosts for future visits.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45. Agnes moved to adjourn, Gail seconded, and it was unanimously agreed.

Next meeting is April 14, 2021 12:30 – 2:00.