

# Friendship Force Board Minutes

December 4, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Chris Vogel, President at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Gayle Best, Clarine Furey, Rosie Haas, Cindy Hum, Dave Kalan, Dorothy Kelley, Dorothy Krupa, Carrie Landers, Ann Line, Bob Mitchell, Chris Vogel.

Absent: Jack Bridich, Barbara Geck, Ed Kelley, Kathy Luglio, Nancy Mitchell, Nancy Rubly

Motion was made by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Rosie Haas to accept the August minutes. The Board accepted the minutes. Motion was made by Ann Line and seconded by Bob Mitchell to accept October minutes. The Board accepted the minutes.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Dorothy Krupa reviewed the club's strong financial condition as reported at the December 2 annual meeting. FFGM has:

\$2000 in a checking exchange  
\$8900 in the general operating account  
\$6,177 in restricted accounts  
\$10,000 in investments

Total: \$27,162

Dorothy said she would get budget information to the Board in January for review at the February meeting. She will record year-end statements at fair market value, which the Board will see in the February report. There are some balances in some of the journeys accounts, but Dorothy said she would have these balanced in the December statement.

Using QuickBooks to invoice members for activities would make the collection of fees much more efficient than simply requesting that members send checks to Dorothy. She will put together a procedure for this.

The Statement of Activity for was -\$2044 on October 31, but the budget for the year is -\$2914. The activity committee is currently underbudget, although there might be some additional costs to figure in for the Annual Dinner. Ann Line said she had some money from activities that she needs to get to Dorothy.

Bob Mitchell motioned and Ann Line seconded to approve the treasurer's report. The Board approved the report.

## **Activities Report** by Ann Line:

Jan. 7 from 2-4 pm "5th at 5" at Dave and Lynne Loosen's home in West Allis. Dave Kalan said the Loosens have elaborate Christmas decorations, including 20 Christmas trees, and will leave their home decorated for the 5th at 5.

Jan. 10 Book Club, possibly at Taqwa's, a Palestinian restaurant in Greenfield. Zoom access needs to be worked out.

Jan. 29 Milwaukee Urban Stables at 11:30 am; includes presentations by the Milwaukee Mounted police and about the therapy program for veterans and children. Attendees will get to groom horses. The visit will be followed by lunch at Moo Mee, a pan-Asian restaurant, about 1:15 p.m.

Potential activities in February include snowshoeing and a visit to a Vietnamese restaurant in honor of Phobruary, an annual celebration of pho.

The Activity Committee meets Dec. 13 and may have additional activities to put in the newsletter.

**Membership** Dorothy Kelley reported that Tom Golding (former member) and Diane Stoiber joined recently, bringing the total membership to 104. They were among the new members who attended the annual dinner. Chris talked to them and said both are interested in hosting.

Cindy Hum asked if all new members are assigned a mentor. Dorothy Kelley explained that she and Gayle have been mentoring most of the new members. Clarine is also mentoring two or three.

The Associate Membership policy was discussed. Some of the wording was changed to read:

- The associate member must be a current member of another FFI club and hold a valid FFI member number.
- The associate member will pay annual dues to FFGM at the current FFGM dues rate minus the amount of these FFGM dues that are allocated to FFI.
- The associate member may participate in all FFGM activities and pay the member rate for any activities requiring a fee.
- The associate member will be sent all communications the same as regular members.
- The associate member may not hold any elected FFGM club officer position.

Motion was made by Ann Line to approve the Associate Membership policy and seconded by Rosie Haas. The Board approved the new policy.

**Field Representatives Meeting** Bob Mitchell said he got an email today from Hemily Noguiera, who is in charge of FFI journeys. She reviewed the upcoming journeys listed on [myfriendshipforce.org](http://myfriendshipforce.org). Of special interest is a journey to Oman. Bob urges members to review the journeys section of the website.

**North American FFI Conference** – October 7-9, 2024, Milwaukee. Dave Kalan recapped the presentation he made at the Annual Meeting about the conference. FFGM has been asked to provide "local flavor" and support, particularly on the second afternoon of the conference between 1:30 and 5:30, with some flexibility on the time depending on lunch plans. FFGM members can help in a number of ways, including planning and leading tours, providing transportation outside the downtown area, taking notes at sessions, and suggesting items for goody bags and helping to fill them. Many of these volunteer opportunities would be great for new members. Amy Bley will be in charge of goody bags for each conference attendee, using

donations in memory of her mother. Dave asked Dorothy Krupa to check on the amount of the memorial fund, which Ann thinks is about \$900. Items for the goody bags should be unique to Milwaukee, and Dave plans to have a list of possibilities by February. He suggested that since the club is not really using the club store, we use some of its items. Dorothy Kelley will look at the new members' applications to see if there are interests in activities related to the conference. Chris will write information about the conference and Dave will review it for the next newsletter.

**Polo shirts:** Chris Vogel reported that Kathy Luglio is still working with Lands' End on the order for polo shirts. New member Diane Stoiber told Chris at the Annual Meeting that she knows of a local vendor who would embroider shirts with our club logo for \$10/apiece, which is cheaper than Lands' End. Chris will discuss with Kathy.

**Possible activities with the Madison club:** Chris Vogel recently had a long conversation with Doug Johnson from the Madison Club about joint activities. Bike rides are one possibility. Ann Line said there'd been talk in the past about the clubs meeting midway between Madison and Milwaukee. Bob Mitchell suggested we ask Madison to email a copy of their newsletter if they do one. Our club could look at that and might find some members interested in attending some Madison events. Chris will ask Doug to send her the newsletter. We already send ours to Madison.

### **Journeys**

Chris Vogel is concerned there are no coordinators for any of the upcoming journeys and would like members with some experience to volunteer.

- The Shelby, North Carolina outbound will be sometime in April. Chris is waiting for specific dates and information about how many people can be hosted.
- Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids, Iowa 3-day mini-journey in July.
- Baton Rouge, Louisiana inbound in August. Cindy Hum offered to coordinate.
- Mary Hauser reported Taiwan is considering a stop-over in Milwaukee on the way to Brazil this summer, but Chris is concerned that it is too much for our club to manage. She does not know how many people would be coming. If it coincided with the Baton Rouge inbound, we might combine them. Chris advised Baton Rouge we could probably host up to 15 people. Chris will communicate with the Taiwan club president.
- Russ Hum is still waiting to hear from the Santa Barbara, California group about a possible journey to Milwaukee. Chris said it would likely be delayed until 2025.
- Chris is still waiting for specific dates and numbers for the Australia/New Zealand outbound. Clarine Furey said she might be involved in coordinating this journey.

**2024 Board Meetings:** February 5, April 1, June 3, August 5 (might be changed to avoid conflict with 5th at 5) September 30 (changed to avoid conflict with FFI conference), December 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Newsletter items due to Chris and Rosie by December 8.

Submitted by Carrie Landers