

Friendship Force Board Minutes

April 1, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Chris Vogel, President at 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Jack Bridich, Barbara Geck, Cindy Hum, Ed Kelley, Kathy Luglio

Dorothy Krupa made a motion to accept the February 2024 Board meeting minutes. Rosie seconded and the Board approved the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Dorothy Krupa reviewed the attached financial reports.

Dorothy explored a new option being offered -- a QuickBooks bank account --thinking there might be some efficiencies. While doing this she accidentally opened the account. To her surprise, not only did QuickBooks open the Bank account with their partner bank but they made a change so that all the electronic payments received by FFGM were to be deposited to this new bank account instead of PNC bank. It took some time to get this all straightened out, but Dorothy assured the board that PNC was again receiving FFGM electronic payments for FFGM payments such as activities. All the money that had been deposited into the QB's account in error was transferred to PNC bank. The new QB's bank account is now inactive and will be closed out in April.

Special events shows a \$250 deficit, but this will be reduced when checks paid in March are deposited. Dorothy will update the Vanguard statement on a quarterly basis.

Bob made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Ann seconded and the Board approved.

Activities Report by Ann Line and Gayle Best

Ann reported that 17 people attended Phobruary in February, and 4 FFGM members attended the UWM French Film Festival. 24 members attended the St Patrick's Day 5th at 5, which was held on March 9. 16 people went to the Milwaukee Museum in March.

Gayle said 22 people so far have signed up for an April 11 visit to the Oconomowoc Historical Society.

The May 1 tour of Road America in Elkhart Lake, with lunch in Plymouth, is completely booked. 20 people have signed up; this is the maximum capacity of the van for the tour.

Ann plans to resume W.H.E.T. walks in May. Another activity scheduled for that month is the Spring Fling on May 18 from 5-8 pm at the Greendale Community Church. Polly Oldenburg will lead the group in line dancing, and Charlie's Catering, South Milwaukee, will provide a catered dinner including baked chicken and barbecue ribs.

Possible summer activities include a June 12 performance of Steel Magnolias at Lapham Peak and a behind-the-scenes tour at the zoo with Dave Loosen or a Fort Atkinson Day in July.

Ann said the activity committee wanted to coordinate the Annual Picnic with the inbound journey from Baton Rouge in August. She will consult with Cindy Hum, coordinator for the journey. Ann suggested the Annual Picnic might be scheduled for August 12 in the same Mitchell Park shelter as last summer's picnic. Dorothy Kelley questioned whether this area would be large enough, especially with growing membership and addition of the visitors from Baton Rouge. Several people agreed the picnic was rather crowded and suggested the committee look at alternative locations, including the picnic area on the north side of the same shelter along with the shelter building, the patio and a covered area at the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center, the Thiensville Park where the picnic has been held in the past, New Berlin Lions Park and Menomonee Park in Menomonee Falls. Wirth Park in Brookfield is another possibility, but Bob noted mosquitoes were a problem at a previous picnic. The Activity Committee will consider other options.

Gayle said member Mary Wacker has offered to do some free AARP presentations at the Brookfield Library for FFGM members. There are four topics that might be interesting. Ann reported that Mary Hauser has arranged for Lauren Fox, the author of the September FFGM book club selection *Send for Me*, to participate in the book club meeting in the Firefly Room of the Wauwatosa Library at 1 pm September 11. Chris suggested including the event in the Wauwatosa NAC e-newsletter so non-FFGM members who were interested could attend. This could be a good recruitment opportunity.

5th at 5's were discussed briefly. No one has offered to host the April and May dates. Chris will send an email to members asking for someone to host the May 5th at 5 and will mention that Gayle's mother's home in New Berlin is available if someone wants to use it rather than host in their own home. 24 people attended the St Patrick's day get-together there, and Gayle has hosted a game night there in the past.

Membership Dorothy Kelley reported the club has 101 members. She reiterated a sentiment expressed in February that much of the recent interest in membership is due to the activities Ann and Gayle plan. When people express interest in the club, she suggests they try some of the upcoming activities.

Dorothy would like board members to think about ways to handle the mentorship program. Recently she and Gayle have been splitting mentorship duties, but this has become more difficult with the uptick in membership. It is important to consider location when matching mentors to new members, as well as personality, participation and other factors.

Chris is hosting a new member gathering at her home at 6:30 p.m. May 22.

Rosie revisited the idea of giving Certificate Status to Nancy Calendar and Shirley Stoll, past members who were very active but are no longer able to participate in club activities because of age and physical abilities. They would continue to receive the newsletter and could come to one annual picnic at no charge. Former member Anne Lee could also be included in this special status. The matter was tabled until after Bob attends his next field representatives meeting. He will ask other clubs how they handle emeritus status. Rosie will continue to send the newsletter to Nancy, Shirley and Ann.

Field Representative report The field representative meeting was not held in March.

North American FFI Conference Dave reported that FFGM is helping FFI with suggestions for entertainment and speakers, and he would like suggestions from our club members. The determination of other conference roles for FFGM is on hold for now. Dave hopes some of our members will attend the conference, which costs \$250 per person. The budget includes \$50 to provide a \$50 subsidy to up to 10 members.

Journeys Chris has not heard back from FFI about the 2025 international journeys she requested.

- Chris is coordinating the Shelby, North Carolina outbound April 15-22
- Ten people have signed up for journey July 16-23 to Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- The Baton Rouge, Louisiana inbound coordinated by Cindy Hum is scheduled for August 12-19.
- A host coordinator is still needed for the October 10-12 mini-inbound from Cedar Rapids/Iowa City
- The Santa Barbara club will probably come to Milwaukee in 2025.
- Chris is still waiting for specific dates and numbers for the Australia/New Zealand outbound in November. Clarine Furey and Carol Gau are coordinating this journey.
- Clarine will find out if there is an opening for another club's upcoming trip to Big Canoe, an exclusive gated community north of Atlanta, Georgia.

2024 Board Meetings: 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 7:30 p.m.
Newsletter items due to Chris and Rosie by April 7.

Submitted by Carrie Landers