

Friendship Force of Central Iowa (FFCI)
Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, March 13, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Present: Corry Bertelsen (Co-Chair Activities), Alta and Jerry Byg (Co-Treasurers), Sedahlia Crase (President), Margaret Epplin (Secretary), Joan Mathews (Membership), Robert Strahan (Co-Past President)

1. **Call to order** The Zoom online meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Crase. The meeting was recorded.

2. **Approve Agenda**

C Bertelsen **made a motion, seconded** by A Byg to approve the Agenda. **Motion carried.**

3. **Approve January 16, 2021, Board meeting minutes**

Mathews **made a motion, seconded** by Strahan to approve the January 2021 minutes. **Motion carried.**

4. **Reports** (This is the time to ask questions or make comments about the written reports. We will not have recitation of the reports.)

a. **Treasurer's Report, Alta/Jerry Byg**

The Bygs emailed the following Treasurer's Report to the Board on March 10, 2021:

Since January 14, 2021, deposits totaling \$450 were made and a payment to Puffin Publishing for web hosting and maintenance costs was issued in the amount of \$246.95.

March 13, 2021 General Account checkbook balance \$4,614.38.

March 13, 2021 Journey Account checkbook balance \$250

See attached spreadsheets for comparison of budgeted amounts versus actual expenditures for year activities to date for 2021.

The Bygs attached an itemized spreadsheet of the 2021 budget to the email showing that dues for 52 members have been received; the budget is built on 57 members. Mathews noted that there will be \$150 less in membership fees, which is the difference between 52 and 57 members.

J Byg noted that the charges so far this year for Jim Ecklund at Puffin Publishing are about the same as last year. Epplin asked for an itemized list for the Puffin Publishing charge of \$246.95.

Strahan noted that we will break even if we don't spend any more than last year, and that for FFCI to survive both the updated website and attendance at FF conferences are needed.

b. **Membership, Mathews**

Mathews emailed the following Membership Report to the Board on March 10, 2021:

We have 52 paid memberships. This includes two new members, Park and Susan Woodle. The individuals mentioned in the January report as thinking about renewing have decided not to renew so there are six former members who did not renew this year.

c. **Communications**

Open position

i. **Historian**

On March 9, 2021, Herwig emailed the following resignation as Historian.

Dear FFCI President Sedahlia and FFCI Board of Directors members,

It is time for me to resign from my FFCI Historian board position effective now and for another FFCI member to assume this Historian position. It has been my great honor and pleasure to be an FFCI member and board

member, and work with all of you and previous board members "changing the way we see the world" across these years. I could not have imagined the hundreds and hundreds of people connections, the new friendships across the world, the richness, the growth, the diverse opportunities that I would experience through Friendship Force of Central Iowa and Friendship Force International. I am grateful.

The photo below is my "final board report" in a most peculiar fashion. (Please note the standing framed *FFCI 35th Anniversary Recognition* from FFI.) These are the FFCI Historical Files that now need to be relocated from our downstairs area to another FFCI home. It would be helpful to Carole and me if these materials could be relocated soon. Sedahlia, please let me know when that can occur.

In friendship,
Joan

The Board expressed sincere and emphatic gratitude for Herwig's 6 years as FFCI Historian, and a written thank you will be sent.

Historian is an appointed position, and Crase asked for recommendations. Crase has picked up the FFCI Historian files from Herwig and is currently storing them at her home. Crase noted that in the past some of the historical notes were in a basement flood.

On February 26, 2021, Herwig emailed an updated FFCI historical document titled "FFCIBoardMemberHistory2021February26." Epplin will re-send the document to Board.

ii. Information Technology

The website will be discussed in Old Business.

iii. Newsletter

Open position. See Old Business below.

iv. Publicity

Open position. Crase asked that individual Committee chairs send publicity and pictures to *The Sun* as it is the only place to get things published for free. Crase asked if the club should consider paying for publication in *The Ames Tribune*.

d. Activities, C. Bertelsen/Starcevic

C Bertelsen's Activities report was forwarded by email from Crase on March 13, 2021:

On Friday, February 12, the FFCI celebrated Valentine's Day by having a Zoom Valentine Party. Since neither Activity co-chair knows how to host a Zoom meeting, Roger and Nick Bertelsen did the honors. Finding club members to participate was easy, and 30 audience members logged on to see 19 acts. There were Valentine quotations, poem recitations, love songs, guitar playing, a comedy act, a story, a memoir, whistling, sewing projects, a demonstration of handmade porcelain dolls, a list of reasons Why I Like to Wear a Mask, pantomimes, and Valentine cards and a pie to get everyone in a festive mood. The party lasted two hours. Corry and Charene received many positive comments about this event and a request to hold a get-acquainted activity every month.

The next gathering will probably be in mid-April, outdoors in a park, after everyone has had two covid-19 vaccinations.

C Bertelsen has a screen shot of the Zoom party and will send Crase a flash drive.

C Bertelsen has the FFCI banner in her garage along with paper plates, etc.

Mathews was pleased to note that one couple attended who did not renew their FFCI membership. Crase sent invitations for the Zoom Valentine's party to previous, current, and new members.

C Bertelsen mentioned several venues which could be used for the April get together, including Jester Park which has a facility for 30 people, the Iowa Arboretum, or Brookside Park. Dot Dake volunteered to lead music around a fire. The April event will include a get-acquainted activity.

e. Nominations, Crase

Nothing to report.

f. Information via Regional Representative, Dale Moore, Crase.

Crase invited Past President Strahan to also attend Zoom regional meetings with Dale Moore.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, FFCI requested no incoming or outgoing journeys for 2021 and 2022, and FFCI was not sent a match letter for any journeys. Once FFCI members feel comfortable hosting or traveling, the club is encouraged to contact FFI and it might still be possible to schedule something domestically.

The ability for FF members to log on to FFI's website and securely access personal information will be rolled out sometime in the near future. FFI will assign everyone a unique member number. Crase attended a Zoom meeting on the updated FFI pages and saw a video which she felt would be helpful to all FF members to watch.

The Houston Club shared on the Zoom meeting that they had enjoyed a Zoom program put on by a couple who had met and fallen in love during the diversion of planes to Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada when US airports shut down due to 911. *Come from Away* is an award-winning Canadian musical which tells the true story of what transpired when 38 planes were ordered to land unexpectedly in the small town of Gander. C Bertelsen said it would be fun to see the play together.

5. Old Business

a. Newsletters: Guest Editors

Crase will contact Avant to see if she is still planning to compile the next newsletter.

b. Journeys Status (ongoing) (2022)

FFCI decided not to plan journeys for 2021 and 2022. Crase noted that FFCI was the only club that didn't request a match. As the pandemic subsides and everyone gets vaccinated, FFCI might consider hosting an inbound or a domestic outbound as suggested in 4f above.

c. Webpage (Epplin, Crase)

Epplin has agreed to work on the FFCI website. Since the January Board meeting, Epplin and Crase held a Zoom meeting with James Ecklund of Puffin Publishing who has user names and passwords for the FFCI website and has extensive knowledge working with many FF clubs over many years. Epplin followed up with two additional training sessions with Ecklund, and Epplin is currently learning the WordPress web development software while working on a draft website for FFCI.

Ecklund is providing training for Epplin free of charge. He charges \$30 per hour if the club asks him to work on the website.

6. New Business

a. 2021 Budget

Discussed earlier in 4a.

b. Future Plans: thoughts, possibilities (brainstorming)

Strahan reminded that a Board retreat was planned before the Covid-19 pandemic but had to be cancelled. Moore should be contacted to see if he will lead a retreat after the pandemic has subsided.

7. Other issues,

8. Adjourn

A Byg **made a motion** to adjourn. Strahan **seconded**. **Motion carried**.

The next Board meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 8, via Zoom.

Margaret Epplin, Secretary