

Friendship Force of Central Iowa (FFCI)
Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 11, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

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

1. **Call to order** The Zoom online meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by President Crase.
Crase called for a moment of silence for Joan Herwig and additional moment of silence for the 20th anniversary of 9-11.
2. **Approve Agenda** No changes to the Agenda were suggested.
3. **Approve July 31, 2021, Board meeting minutes**
Mathews **made a motion, seconded** by A Byg **to approve** the July 31, 2021, minutes. **Motion carried.**
4. **Acknowledgements**
Crase expressed appreciation to the Activities Committee for a well-attended June picnic and thanked everyone for everything that is done for FFCI.
5. **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**
There have been no transactions in the Journey account since July 31, 2021. The September 11, 2021, Journey Account check book balance is \$250.

The July 31, 2021, General Account checkbook balance was \$4,819.07. The Friendship Force dessert gathering on August 18 had an expense of \$49.48 which was reimbursed to Corry Bertelsen. With this transaction, the September 11, 2021, General Account checkbook balance is \$4,759.59.

Bygs provided a spreadsheet showing the comparison of budgeted amounts versus actual expenditures for year-to-date income and expenses for 2021.
 - b. **Membership, Mathews**
Mathews reported no activity since last report.
 - c. **Communications**
Open position
 - i. **Historian**
Open position
 - ii. **Information Technology (Epplin)**
No report
 - iii. **Newsletter**
Open position
 - iv. **Publicity**
Open position
 - d. **Activities, C. Bertelsen/Starcevic**
As reported at the July meeting, 36 FFCI members attended the June picnic. Lets Eat Out (LEO) is being planned.

e. **Nominations, Crase**

Crase reported no changes.

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

No August meeting was held.

6. **Old Business**

a. **Newsletters: Guest Editors?**

Mathews asked that newsletters be forwarded from the Midwest clubs.

b. **Journeys Status (ongoing) (2022)**

There have been cancellations and there is no news.

c. **Website (Epplin)**

Epplin reported no changes to the website.

7. **New Business**

a. **Discussion of ongoing status of Friendship Force of Central Iowa**

Strahan and Crase have been working on a letter to the entire FFCI membership encouraging members to volunteer for open Board position and to inform the membership that, if there are not enough Board members, FFCI would need to begin to deactivate the club. Membership will vote on 2022 officers at the October 9 Annual Meeting.

Strahan **made a motion, seconded by** Mathews to pay for a continuous Zoom meeting for the October Annual Meeting. **Motion carried.**

A Byg noted that there might be a possibility of using the Toastmaster Zoom account.

Bob suggested 2 additions to the letter: (1) "Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Zoom Annual Meeting on October 9 from 10 to 11:30. Once again, our club is at a critical point..." (2) "Please consider carefully if you are **able and willing** to fill a leadership role..."

A Byg said the positions which are necessary to continue FFCI should be indicated in the letter, and Epplin suggested adding the positions that are already filled to the letter.

The following will continue as Board members: Crase (President), Epplin (Secretary), Bygs (Co-Treasurers).

The following will not continue as Board members: Bob Strahan (Past Co-President), Kueier Chung (Past Co-President), Joan Mathews (Membership), Corry Bertelsen (Activities), Charlene Starcevic (Activities). Several of these members have indicated that they will continue to be active members of FFCI and host inbound journey travelers.

Crase will revise the letter and email to Board for approval before sending to entire membership.

Crase asked each Board member to share what they believe about the FFCI issue of not finding enough Board members to continue as a club.

Epplin did not wish to recommend cessation of the club after being a member mostly during the pandemic which limited normal activities of FFCI.

A Byg suggested perhaps FFCI should consolidate with the Des Moines club.

Crase does not believe that the time of Covid is the time to stop being a club and hopes a small group of officers can navigate FFCI through Covid times.

Mathews feels Strahan laid out the situation and it is up to the membership.

Consensus of the Board was that currently FFCI has little to offer new members, but that once the pandemic is no longer limiting travel, FFCI needs to increase advertisement and recruitment. There are

opportunities for advertisement and recruitment through the ISU Retirees “Rock Out in Retirement” event and OLLI.

b. Be the Bridge Future Plans (Crase)

Do we want to be a test site for Be the Bridge for FFI? Crase and Mathews suggested we hold on this decision until membership decides if FFCI will exist in 2022.

c. Budget related issues 2021 or 2022

No issues. Crase will submit the Zoom expense for the Annual Meeting unless FFCI uses the Toastmaster Zoom account.

d. Annual all Midwest picnic on September 19

Crase noted the upcoming picnic in Des Moines.

8. Other issues None

9. Adjourn

Mathews **made a motion** to adjourn. Strahan **seconded. Motion carried.**

The 2021 Annual Meeting for all members will be Saturday, October 9, 10 to 11:30 via Zoom. The next Board meeting will be November 13, 2021.

Margaret Eplin, Secretary