

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

**Present:** Corry Bertelsen (Activities Co-Chair), 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 9:30 a.m. by President Crase. Crase thanked the Bygs for sharing the time-unlimited Zoom access for the October Annual Meeting.

2. **Approve Agenda** No changes to the Agenda were suggested.

3. **Approve September 11, 2021, Board meeting minutes**

Mathews **made a motion, seconded** by Bertelsen to **approve** the September 11, 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 Treasurer's report on November 11.

There have been no transactions in the Journey account since September 11, 2021. November 11, 2021, Journey Account checkbook balance is \$250.

The September 11, 2021, General Account checkbook balance was \$4,769.59. The Friendship Force Lake Wobegon concert had expenses of \$250 which was reimbursed to Corry Bertlesen. Revenues for this event were \$250 of which \$210 was for ticket sales and \$40 donation. With this transaction, the November 11, 2021, General Account checkbook balance is \$4,769.59.

Bygs provided a spreadsheet showing the comparison of budgeted amounts versus actual expenditures for year-to-date income and expenses for 2021. Since the pandemic prevented several expenses, the November report shows a profit of \$318.26. If all the budgeted expenses had been spent, FFCI would have had a \$700-\$800 deficit.

b. **Membership, Mathews**

As the final Membership Chair activity, Mathews will send all FFCI members a letter detailing the cost of dues for 2022 (covered in 6c below). Mathews will send the Board a draft before sending to membership.

c. **Communications**

Open position

i. **Historian**

Open position. Crase is storing the FFCI records and will check on digitizing. Epplin received a box of historical documents from Jim Perkins of Marshalltown and will deliver the box to Crase.

ii. **Information Technology, Epplin**

Epplin is waiting to see if changes FFI is making will impact the FFCI website.

iii. **Newsletter**

Dennis Dake volunteered to do newsletters in 2022.

iv. **Publicity**

Open position

**d. Activities, C. Bertelsen/Starcevic**

Bertelsen and Starcevic volunteered to do two activities in 2022 with additional activities carried out by other members. Bertelsen asked all members to let her know of any free or low-cost spaces large enough for FFCI activities.

**e. Nominations, Crase**

Crase is making contacts for the open FFCI positions.

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

Crase attended the September regional Zoom meeting which included information on the journey matching process.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Journeys Status (in and out-bound for 2022)**

FFCI did not request any journeys for 2022.

**b. Website, Epplin**

Epplin reported that the approved minutes of the 2020 and 2019 Annual Meeting are posted on the website and asked members to send any feedback on the design and use of the website. As stated in 4c ii above, Epplin is waiting to see if changes FFI is making will impact the FFCI website.

**c. Member sign-in to new FFI portal, Crase**

Crase encouraged all members to visit the FFI website and set up a username and password. Each individual member, including both members of a couple, must have own unique username and password. Crase will provide any instruction as needed.

**6. New Business**

**a. Status of our club after today**

Board members were encouraged that FFCI has survived the pandemic with very little loss in membership numbers and much participation in activities. Several officer and committee positions have been filled.

Epplin **made a motion, seconded by Mathews** that Friendship Force of Central Iowa continue as an active club. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**b. Vice President election. Appointment of committee chairs, Crase**

Crase is continuing to search for Vice President and Membership and Communications chairs.

**c. Dues for 2022**

FFI has informed all clubs that the FFI dues will increase from \$15 to \$20 for each member in 2021, and \$25 for each member in 2022. Without raising the current \$30 FFCI club dues, the amount FFCI keeps will diminish to \$5 per member after payment to the parent organization (FFI). The \$30 FFCI dues have not been raised for several years. As the Co-Treasurers reported in 4a above, If all the budgeted expenses had been spent, FFCI would have had a \$700-\$800 deficit.

Mathews **made a motion, seconded by Epplin** to increase Friendship Force of Central Iowa dues to \$40 per member. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Other issues: Crase shared a summary of 2021:**

This is our last Board meeting for 2021. I commend each and all of you for your valiant efforts this year. At the annual meeting I read a list of what we did not do because of COVID-19, but the things you did were truly amazing. a) we have a new website, b) we had 4 successful, fun, and creative social events, each including between 22 and 33 members, avg=26, c) we've had foresight to not plan journeys in or out, d) we had an officer take on sending some publicity to the Ames Tribune "Sun," e) we've maintained our membership at a level (currently n=54) not far out of line with our highest numbers, f)

we've maintained good and productive relationships with FFI, the Midwest regional coordinator and the other club reps in our region, g) we had 3 representatives at the All Iowa Club Picnic, h) we've had several (n=10 or 11) members log in to FFI's new portal, though more have not than have, i) our finances have been well cared for, j) we've seriously considered if we should remain as a club or disband, not an easy task to do, k) we've had excellent Board attendance at each of our 6 Board meetings and the annual meeting, l) we had good attendance (n=24) at our annual meeting and m) we've maintained a cordial and warm relationship among all the Board members, and that is a real positive.

Strahan and Chung have completed their term as co-presidents, and Mathews has completed the term as Membership Chair. Crase and the rest of the Board thanked them for their outstanding service and guidance over many years.

- 8. Adjournment:** Next Board meeting, which will start the 2022 year and include any new officers and committee members as well as those ongoing, will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, January 15, via Zoom.

Margaret Epplin, Secretary