

FFCI Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 21, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Present: Sedahlia Crase (President), Margaret Epplin (Secretary), Alta Byg (Co-Treasurer), Jerry Byg (Co-Treasurer)

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by President Crase
2. **Approval of agenda**

Epplin **made a motion** to approve today's agenda. A Byg **seconded**. Motion **carried**.
3. **Approval of minutes of January and March 12, 2022 Board meetings**

A Byg **made a motion** to approve the January 15, 2022, minutes. Epplin **seconded**. **Motion carried**.

Epplin **made a motion** to approve the March 12, 2022, minutes. J Byg **seconded**. **Motion carried**.
4. Reports: Rather than recitation of reports, this is a time to ask questions or comment.
 - a. **Treasurers Report** (Alta and Jerry Byg, Co-Treasurers)

On May 19, Co-Treasurers Bygs emailed the following Treasurer's Report to the FFCI Board.

There have been no transactions in the Journey account since March 10, 2022. Journey Account checkbook balance is \$250

The March 10, 2022, General Account checkbook balance was \$5,229.59. Payments for expenses were made to Puffin Publishing (\$17.99) and to Charene Starcevic (\$272.85). The payment to Puffin was for renewing our website for another year and the payment to Starcevic was to reimburse her for hiring Della Viti for the wine and cheese pairing event.

4 dues payments (\$160) and \$25 donations along with \$240 wine and cheese pairing event income were received and deposited. With these transactions the General Checking Account balance is \$5,363.75.

As of May 19, 2022, 44 membership dues have been received.

Crase noted that an audit of FFCI finances for 2020 and 2021 needs to be completed and Crase will contact non-Board members to meet with her and the Bygs to complete this task.
 - b. **Membership** (Bygs dues received and new members) (Epplin membership lists)

Epplin will update the membership list and send to Board members for review. After the Board has reviewed the final list, the list will be sent to the entire FFCI membership for careful review of individual listings. Crase will send a final email to those who have not sent their dues.

J Byg reported that dues from one more member have been received and will be reported at the July Board meeting, bringing the total membership count to 45.
 - c. **Communication**
 - i. **Historian:** FFCI historical materials are at Crase's home. Diane Oppedal has agreed to Crase's request to sort these materials. Oppedal provided a suggested list of items and asked the Board to decide which items on the list should be retained.

Epplin noted that the following are maintained by her and posted on the website: a cumulative list of Inbound and Outbound journeys and the ambassadors for these trips, a list of officers over the years, FFCI ByLaws, and FFCI Policies and Procedures. Most of these items were previously kept up to date by past Historian Herwig.

After researching online, the Board decided that Board meeting minutes should be kept for 7 years, and Treasurer reports should be kept for 6 years. The Board decided that evaluations and budget sheets do not need to be retained.

Board members suggested that the Ames Historical society should be contacted to see if they have different recommendations for items that should be retained, if they provide digitized libraries, or if they have shelf storage for Journey memory books

A Byg suggested memory books be posted on the FFCI website.

- ii. **Information Technology** (Epplin): Epplin has made several updates to the FFCI website.
 - ii. **Newsletter** (De Dake) Crase suggested that any items for Dake's newsletter be sent to Dake 5 days prior to the end of each month.
 - iii. **Publicity**: Crase reminded Board members to take pictures at FFCI activities and provide to Dake.
- d. **Activities**: Five small groups volunteered to plan and present 2022 FFCI activities with assistance from past co-chairs Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic. The list of activities was sent to the FFCI membership. Board agreed that the April Brookside Earth Day and May wine tasting were well attended and look forward to the June Summer Olympics at Marcia Thompson's home. The Board will host the August activity. Bygs will provide a Power Point presentation on their Ukraine journey. Epplin will check with McFarland about open August dates. A Byg will send Dake a preliminary announcement for the next newsletter.
- e. **Nominations** (Crase) Still need 2022 vice president and committee chairs.

5. **Old business**

- a. **2022 Inbound and Outbound Journeys** FFCI did not request 2022 journeys due to Covid.
- b. **Member sign-in to new FFI portal** (Crase) Turnout continues to be very low for FFI signup.
- c. **2021 officer/committee reports** were due to new Board members or Crase by the end of 2021.

6. **New business**

- a. **2023 budget** To be done later in 2022.
- b. **Nominations for 2023 officers** To be done later in 2022.
- c. **Report on 2023 journey requests** After polling the membership for possible journeys, Crase submitted to FFI the 2023 Inbound and Outbound requests from FFCI.
- d. **Future plans** No report
- e. **Report/discussion of brainstorming event** In March 2022, the FFCI Board (Crase, Dennis Dake, Epplin, A and J Byg) met at the home of Epplin to discuss ways to increase the visibility of FFCI in the community and increase FFCI membership. Possibilities discussed were: have a presence at the Senior Fair for ISU retirees; advertise in OLLI brochure; provide a OLLI workshop; purchase space at Farmer's Market in late spring, summer to display journey books and other FFCI information; assist at Thursday evening events at Bandshell Park; have an FFCI team at the spring cleanup event (sponsored by *Ames Tribune*); serve meals downtown at Food at First; encourage members to sign up to travel with other FF clubs; revive the Ames Sister City program; participate in the International Partner City Association; encourage members to take advantage of activities through FFI including book clubs and virtual travel meetings.
- f. **Information via Regional Representative**: Crase reported that Dale Moore has completed his term as Regional Representative. Our new Regional Representative is Robert Mitchell from the Milwaukee club. Crase reported that at the next regional meeting she will learn the timeline for 2023 Inbound and Outbound Journey matches.)

7. **Other business**: None

8. **Adjournment** Epplin made a motion to adjourn. All Byg seconded. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 2 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Several Board members have conflicts with this date since it is 4th of July weekend. In addition, some Board members have conflicts with July 9 and 16. An alternative date later in July or early August will need to be found.