

FFCI Board Meeting: Minutes
Saturday, March 12, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Present: Alta and Jerry Byg (Co-Treasurers), Dennis Dake (Newsletter), Margaret Epplin (Secretary), Sedahlia Crase (President)

1. **Call to order (Crase)** Crase called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. **Approve Agenda (Crase)**

Crase proposed an amendment to the Agenda to add Item 4g "Change the date of the July Board meeting."

Epplin **made a motion** to approve the amendment. A Byg **seconded. Motion carried**

Epplin **made a motion** to approve the amended Agenda. A Byg **seconded. Motion carried.**

3. **Approve minutes of January 15, 2022, Board Meeting (Epplin)**

Epplin was late with minutes so they will be approved at the May meeting or at the brainstorming meeting.

4. **Reports:** Rather than recitation of reports, this is a time to ask questions or comment.

a. **Treasurer Report (A & J Byg)**

Friendship Force of Central Iowa Treasurers' Report as of March 10, 2022.

There have been no transactions in the Journey account since January 14, 2022. Journey Account checkbook balance is \$250.

The January 14, 2022, General Checking Account checkbook balance was \$4,509.59. No payments for expenses were made. 18 dues payments were received and deposited (\$720.00). With these transactions the General Checking Account balance is \$5,229.59.

b. **Membership**

A & J Byg reported that as of March 10, 2022, membership dues have been received from 40 members. Membership dues are due by April 20. After April, Epplin will compile a 2022 FFCI membership list.

c. **Communication, _____**

i. **Historian:** Since the club does not currently have a Historian, historical materials are stored at Crase's home. Crase will personally buy a two-drawer cabinet to store records.

ii. **Information Technology (website) (Epplin):** Epplin will post the March 2022 newsletter on the website.

iii. **Newsletter (Dennis Dake)** Everyone shared with Dake how much they enjoyed the March 2022 newsletter. Crase will send all Board members the 2022 FFCI email list; Dake will use the list to distribute the newsletter. Dake will add club contact information to each newsletter as well as the text "Follow us on Facebook "Friendship Force of Central Iowa" @ffcentraliowa and the FFCI website (<https://ffcentraliowa.org>)."

iv. **Publicity, _____**

Since no one is fulfilling the role of Publicity, Crase encouraged everyone to send pictures to Dennis for the newsletter.

d. **Activities:** Five small groups volunteered to do the activities, with assistance from past co-chairs Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic; the list of activities has been sent to our membership, and a great list it is.

The Board agreed to plan and present the November activity. Perhaps the activity can be a repeat of the 2021 popular dessert tasting. Dennis Dake said we should contact Charene and Corry about the date.

Dennis will focus on the next upcoming activity in the newsletter.

The consensus of the Board was that the list of activities, as well as the members accepting planning of activities, were impressive—special thanks to Corry Bertelsen and Charene Starcevic.

e. **Nominations (Crase):** Nothing to report

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

Crase will send the March minutes of the Regional meeting to the Board. The date of the Regional meeting has been changed to the 4th Thursday of each month from 10 to 11:30. Many clubs have two people who attend but FFCI has only Crase who invited other Board members to join her on the regional Zoom meetings.

Crase reported on conversations at the last regional meeting.

Each meeting has an “entertainment” section and some members shared pictures of recent activities such as scuba diving.

Members were reminded that requests for outbound destinations are due next Friday March 18. Moore gave a run-down on the process of assigning trips. There will be an assessment of clubs seeking to re-schedule cancelled trips but these will be a low priority. Members expressed confusion about completing the journey request form. After the meeting, Moore sent intricate instructions about how to complete the form.

The name of Open World has been changed to COIL.

A program called Alex serves people coming from countries that previously composed the Soviet Union. There are several of these countries coming to the US which do not have a host club.

Moore reported that it is impossible to remove a person who has died from myFF and Moore is reporting this issue to FFI.

g. **Change the date of the July Board meeting**

Crase has a conflict with the July 9 meeting date and will send an email to Board members to find another time.

In addition, Epplin reported a conflict with the May 14 meeting and will contact Board members to find another time.

5. **Old Business**

a. **2022 Journeys (in- and out-bound):** FFCI did not request a 2022 journey. Crase shared a recent letter inviting clubs to accept a 2022 journey, but no action was taken at this Board meeting.

Epplin, Bygs, and Dake indicated that they are now ready to host inbound or participate in outbound journeys.

Epplin **made a motion** that Crase survey the membership about readiness for inbound and outbound journey travel. A. Byg **seconded. Motion carried.**

Epplin **made a motion** that Crase survey the membership about locations of interest. A Byg **seconded. Motion carried.**

b. **Member sign-in to new FFI portal (Crase)**

Crase reported that only 12 FFCI members have set up myFF on FFI. Dennis completed his myFF sign-up and will include instructions in an upcoming newsletter.

Crase and Epplin will update the FFCI profile on FFI.

6. **New business**

a. **2022 budget** Crase and Bygs will work together to develop the 2022 budget.

b. **Elect vice president and appoint committee chairs** No progress

c. **2021 officer/committee reports** were due to new Board members or Crase by the end of 2021.

- d. **2023 journey requests.** Crase sent an email on March 8 outlining the process of requesting journeys. Today the Board passed motions in 5a above to survey the membership to learn member ideas. Outbound requests are due Friday, March 18.
- e. **Future plans** The Board agreed to find a date next week for a brainstorming session about what we can do to increase our visibility in the community and increase FFCI membership. Some possibilities are: volunteer; purchase space at Farmer’s Market in late spring, summer; assist at Thursday evening events at Bandshell Park; have an FFCI team at the spring cleanup event (sponsored by *Ames Tribune*); serve meals downtown for a week.

7. **Other issues**

8. **Adjournment**

A Byg **made motion** to adjourn, Epplin **seconded. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

The Next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 14*, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Remaining 2022 Board meetings are scheduled for July 9*, September 10, and November 12.

The FFCI Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 8.

* As noted in 5g above, Epplin is unable to attend the May 14 meeting and will send an email to Board members to find another time, and Crase has a conflict with the July 9 meeting date and will send an email to Board members to find another time.