

The mission of the Friendship Force is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people

Friendship Force of Central North Carolina
Minutes of Board Meeting, August 9, 2018

Main Street United Methodist Church, Kernersville, NC 10:00am

Members Present: Don Sylvester, Marylin Moniquette-John, Barbara North, Martha Brown, Patti Gilmour

Consent Agenda Items: Minutes of July 12, 2018 Board meeting were approved by Barbara and seconded by Martha

Treasurer's Report: Ray was absent and there was not a Treasurer's Report submitted.

Discussion ensued about whether the Treasurer's report should be added to the Minutes and uploaded to the website. It was decided that the report should be uploaded to Go-Daddy but not placed on the website. This allows for the report to be digitally accessed if ever needed. Barbara will call Crista and ask if she can figure out if the documents that have been uploaded can be printed or copied from there. If we (the web master) can't access them, then there is no point in having them stored on Go Daddy for safe keeping.

Leadership Council Members:

New members needed on the Council:

Martha and Marylin will not continue on the Leadership Council next year. Don and Patti have both agreed to continue in 2019. In the last meeting Karla, Barbara, and Ray said they would continue. (Since Leroy is no longer a journey's coordinator (having completed his duties for the Oregon outbound), he has indicated that he will not continue to attend Board meetings).

There was discussion about inviting members to become "At Large" Council members representing the membership. They would primarily observe and learn about the workings of the Board but could also help with tasks and have voting rights. This will be discussed with the membership at the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee:

Two new members are needed on the Council and a nominating committee is therefore needed. Don will contact several people and ask them to be on the nominating committee (three are needed). Several members were suggested as possibilities. The nominating committee should complete their search and report back by October 1st.

How to increase member involvement:

There was a lengthy discussion about how to increase member involvement in club tasks throughout the year. Marilyn is updating the surveys that give information about the tasks some members would be willing to do. She is also trying to encourage new members to volunteer.

We discussed talking to the members at the next annual meeting about requesting their help. Some points raised included:

- probably making the October annual meeting for current members only (not guests)
- not having an outside speaker (although we need to have some “fun or entertainment” in the meeting)
- share with members examples about the many smaller tasks that they can help with
- possibly having several members speak about what tasks they have done and what positive experience came from it
- ask members to please respond to our attempts to reach them (return voicemail messages, etc)

The Board will continue to discuss this topic at the next Board meeting in September.

Update on Journeys and Open World

Bundaberg, Australia inbound

Barbara reported on the Bundaberg inbound in October. So far there are 9 ambassadors coming with the possibility of 2 or 3 more coming from Uganda. Bundaberg has a payment deadline tomorrow so at that time the numbers will be certain.

The committee is contacting members for hosting and there seems to be an adequate response. Barbara is taking care of deposits for various places. Barbara and her committee have organized the program for the ambassadors so that some of the afternoons will be free time.

The welcome brunch will be on Oct. 9th at the Kernersville Community Center and the Farewell party will be at the United Universalist Church in Winston-Salem on October 15th. It will be a BBQ with entertainment provided.

There will be a speaker at the Carolina Theater on Friday evening prior to the concert. Barbara is working with the director there to provide a well-informed speaker on the topic of the Piedmont Land Conservancy.

Open World

Ray and Ralph, who are the coordinators for the Open World in November, were not present and had asked Martha to do the update. Ray will be in charge of the program and Ralph will take care of hosting, the welcome and farewell parties.

Martha reported that there will be max 7 people coming (5 guests, 1 coordinator and 1 translator). There seems to be some difficulty in finding enough hosts from our club. Contacts with members are still being made, but this could require that the visitors remain with their first host, rather than experiencing two different hosts.

After some discussion, the Board suggested that the welcome party include only the Open World participants and their hosts. The farewell party will be open to the membership.

Martha suggested that the farewell party could be a Thanksgiving dinner and that the membership could provide the food as a pot luck dinner. There was some ongoing discussion about the pros and cons of this versus having the dinner catered, which would be easier for members since the event will be close to Thanksgiving and annual meeting. The Board decided that it would be preferable to cater the dinner, providing that the budget can accommodate it. Martha will talk to Ray and Ralph about this.

Other

-Outbound Journey to Vietnam and Thailand

Martha reported that she had received information from FFI that the second requested home stay in Lamphun, Thailand has been confirmed.

Also, the contact person for the Vietnam stay has confirmed. She can now work on dates for the visits in both Vietnam and Thailand.

-Detroit

Martha is working on a domestic outbound to Detroit that could occur next summer. She has told her contact in Detroit that if they are unable to host our club, we could host them here. The summer was chosen for this journey so that teachers might be able to join our club on the trip.

FFI Journey matching process

-Martha discussed her suggestions for completing the FFI form for inbound journeys in 2020 (these forms being due August 15). Various inputs were discussed, including that we will request one international inbound and one domestic inbound.

FFI will continue to facilitate the international journeys and will now also facilitate the domestic journeys.

Martha plans to send out surveys to members in September to determine our club's preferred international outbound destinations.

Update on Social Events

Karla was not present but had sent an email with the completed details concerning the LEO on 9/16/2018 at the House of Plants.

Barbara presented the invitation notice of this event that will go out to all members via email and asked for any suggestions for changes. A couple of changes were made and the notice was accepted.

Update on Membership - Marylin Moniquette-John

Marylin reported that there are 9 new members and she continues to follow up on a few more prospective members (a few who attended the Shepherd Center FF event and a couple of people who have been recommended by current members). She is in the process of ordering the FF ID pins for each new member.

Marylin will do a new membership list and send it out to all members as soon as she is certain of all the new members. She had arranged for bios of each new member to be given to Barbara for the most recent newsletter, which everyone thought were excellent.

Marylin suggested that the club organize an orientation for new members and the Board thought that this was an excellent idea. This will be explored further and discussed in a future Board meeting.

Other

Our FFCNC website

There was a discussion about Crista's recent question about the SSL Certificate regarding internet security, which would entail a cost to the club (about \$5.00/month). It was decided that the club did not need it at this time because we do not have sensitive information on our website and also because it is unclear if not having this certification would seriously deter visitors to our site. The Board decided that this issue could be revisited in the future if necessary.

Regarding the reported problem with the link to the Membership Coordinator, it was agreed that Martha and Barbara would try using the link to determine if the problem still exists.

Regional Meeting

The Regional Meeting to be held in Charleston, SC November 7-9 was discussed. Don reported calling our member, R. Tuten who lives in Charleston but she will not be able to attend. Barbara placed a notice in the most recent newsletter inviting an interested member to volunteer to attend and represent the club but we have not had any response. As a result, it appears that FFCNC would not be represented at the Regional meeting this year.

Meeting Rooms at UMC

The reservation of our meeting room at UMC for the Board meetings through November was confirmed by Don.

Minutes

Barbara asked if the Board would like the minutes of Board meetings to be added to the newsletter (as some clubs do). It was decided not to do so.

FFI Affiliation Fees

Barbara informed the Board that FFI will increase their affiliation fees from \$15.00 to \$20.00 in 2020. Therefore it will be necessary to increase our club membership fees from \$25.00 to possibly \$30.00 in 2020.

Meeting Adjourned

Martha made a motion to adjourn, Marilyn seconded it, and the motion was passed.