

Friendship Force Knoxville

Board Meeting

April 13, 2021

Present via ZOOM: Jayne Raparelli, Betsy Tonkin, Bruce Robinson, Diana Lopez, Leslie Badaines, Janis Robinson, Ray Simko, Helen Bachrach.

President's Report: Jayne Raparelli opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. She welcomed Helen Bachrach as co-chair of Program/Membership Committee. Our programs have been well attended, and we are we're getting new members. We need a Secretary. Barbara Elder stayed on this year because we could not find another person. She wanted to leave in March, but she will stay on until we find someone else. If anyone knows of someone to ask to take this position, please let Jayne know. We are making progress planning for three domestic 2021 Journeys, but it is a big challenge because of Covid. Jayne thanked the Journey Committee: Diana Lopez, Leslie Badaines and Betsy Tonkin for their work.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Board meeting were approved. Minutes of March 23, 2021 General Membership Event were approved. Prior to today's Board meeting, Betsy Tonkin made a motion via email to accept Helen Bachrach as co-chair of the Program/Membership Committee with having the vote of the Program Chair. Janis Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: In the Operating account for the period March 1 through April 5, 2021 there were dues revenues of \$40 and expenses of \$45.06 for name tags and web calendar. In the Operating account for the same period there was \$300 of revenues for FFK's participation in a virtual reunion Open World event. There were no expenses.

Extending Journey credit for Host and Ambassador Coordinators: Bruce Robinson: Because Covid has prevented travel, do we want to extend the \$100 Journey credit for Host and Ambassador Coordinators for two 2019 Journeys: August 2019 Outbound to Des Moines and October 2019 Inbound from Napa-Sonoma? Betsy Tonkin moved that we extend the \$100 Journey credit two more years for these two Journeys. Janis Robinson seconded. The motion was approved.

Formatted: Font: Bold

Open World: It was noted the Journey Credit Policy does not apply to Open World. The Board discussed whether there should be Journey credit given to the Open World coordinator. The discussion was tabled. Betsy Tonkin will check with FFI staffer who handles Open World matters to see if there are any regulations about payments.

Vice President/Program/Membership Co-Chairs: Betsy Tonkin, Helen Bachrach. Co-Chairs along with committee members Vicki Creed and Susana Navarro discussed potential programs for July and November at their committee meeting. Suggestions included a program on Indonesia by FFK member Dave Ostermeier who had lived there in 1991-1993. Another possibility is the PBS show by Rick Steves on WHY WE TRAVEL which is consistent with FF mission. Two other suggestions are a program on Travel Photography by Sharon Swallow and a program on Ghana by an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church.

The April program will be presented by Diana Lopez on her trip to Myanmar.

The Membership profile for the next Newsletter will be on Marsha and Art Mitchell. Susana offered to contact the members who have not responded to Bruce's inquiry regarding the date or year each joined FFK or any other FF Club if continuous member. This information is important for emeritus or honorary membership and to determine longest members for membership profiles.

After discussion, the Committee decided to continue their meetings via ZOOM on the first Tuesday of the month. A combination of in-person and ZOOM General Event meetings was discussed as a possibility, but the committee decided to bring this idea to the full Board for discussion.

Journey Committee Co-Chairs: Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez

Leslie Badaines presented the Journey Committee's proposed FFK Policy on Domestic 2021 Journeys during the COVID Pandemic. The Policy was previously sent to Board members. The requirement for negative testing has been eliminated as the CDC now states it is unnecessary if travelers are at least two weeks past being fully vaccinated. It came as a recommendation from the Committee and was seconded by Bruce Robinson. Betsy Tonkin made a motion to amend number 2 of the policy to include that an ambassador must also test negative for the virus 1-3 days before the arrival of the ambassador. Helen

Bachrach seconded the motion. Amendment to the motion failed with two members voting yes and four members voting no. The Journey Committee's motion to approve the proposed policy passed with four members voting yes and two members voting no.

PROPOSED – FFK Policy on Domestic 2021 Journeys during COVID Pandemic

For the health and safety of all members of FFK during this time of the COVID pandemic, the Journey Committee recommends the following protocols:

1. An Ambassador on an Outbound Journey must be vaccinated against COVID. The Ambassador has the right to require that his/her host also be vaccinated.
2. A Host for an Inbound Journey must be vaccinated against COVID. The Host has the right to require that an Ambassador also be vaccinated.
3. Masks must always be worn when out in public, at airports, in restaurants (unless actively eating), at meetings and all gatherings until such time as the CDC no longer recommends that masks be worn. The Host and Ambassador should agree as to the most comfortable protocol in the home.
- 1.4. FFK will comply with all recommendations that may be developed by the CDC at a later date.

The two Outbound Journeys to Napa-Sonoma and San Antonio are well into planning, and applications will be accepted beginning next month. Articles will be in the Newsletter to recruit Ambassadors.

The Inbound San Antonio Journey is being coordinated by Mike McDonough and Jayne Raparelli. Diana Lopez made a motion to approve a \$300 deposit to Calhoun's on the River for the Tuesday, October 26, 2021 San Antonio Farewell Dinner. The deposit is good for one year. If we do not use it for San Antonio, we will use it for Des Moines in April 2022. Janis Robinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor with one abstention. Jayne Raparelli will soon send Bruce Robinson the information on where to send the deposit.

The St. Louis Club talked to Diana about their Inbound Journey. They still would like to come this fall. The committee turned down the request for this year and hoped they will still consider coming fall 2022.

Assignments for 2022 for an Outbound to Australia and Lower Columbia and an Inbound from Des Moines and St. Louis are in the works. Although Romania was not assigned again, we are able to work out dates between us, and then FFI will supply a Journey number. Mike Donough stepped up and volunteered to be Host Coordinator for Des Moines (dates will depend on Dogwood Arts Festival in April). The Board approved Mike's offer unanimously. Coordinators are still needed for St. Louis and Lower Columbia.

Nothing new for Open World possibilities for 2022.

Newsletter: The deadline dates for the April Newsletter are:

April 16 – Articles to Janis

April 19 or before – Newsletter sent to members.

April 23 & 26 – Meeting reminders sent to members.

May 16th is the 40th Anniversary date for the FFK's charter as a club, and Janis would like to write a short article to recognize the occasion. There is currently no coordinator for any official celebration later in the year, so the Board members will be able to review the article before it is sent out to the membership.

WEB page: Ray Simko reported that all web pages are up to date.

Club Concerns: Jayne Raparelli asked Renee Ioannides to send a card to FFK member Ellen Greenwood who had been in the hospital and is now home.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Elder