



FFMV Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 21, 2023

Time: 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Greentree Village Community Centre, Burnaby and Zoom

Present (32): Angie Grikis, Barbara Stokes, Bob MacKay, Chris Rothery, Dan and Lissa Macmaster – Z, Doreen M’Lot, Elaine Gibson, Eleanor Penner, Glynis Karpinsky, Cooky Dhaliwal, Gurin Dhaliwal, Hilda Miller, Janice Froese, Jean Nakamura, Jennie Warren, Jo Pegler, Joanne Smyrski, John Niles – Z, Liane McKenna, Louise Holmes, Lucy Cleggett, Marian Ennis -Z, Marilyn Fairbairn, Mary Stark, Maureen Pringle, Nita MacKay, Jean and Richard Nakamura, Susan Barr, Val Karpinsky, Wendy Trigg

1. Approval of agenda

Moved by Val, seconded by Angie; CARRIED

2. Approval of minutes Jan 22/22

Moved by Val, seconded by Gurin; CARRIED

3. President – Joanne

- Joanne acknowledged all the members who contributed to our club in the past year: the executive, host and ambassador coordinators and their teams, members helping with inbound journeys and being gracious ambassadors on outbound journeys, members who organized/attended/ helped with setup and cleanup at our social events, members who brought in new members in other words, thank you, friends, for supporting Friendship Force Metro Vancouver
- Joanne also expressed thanks to two members leaving the executive – Marian Ennis, Communications Director and Elaine Gibson, Secretary

• **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

There were no nominations from the floor for executive positions; therefore, the 2023 FFMV Executive will consist of:

- President - Joanne Smyrski
- Vice President – **vacant**
- Past President – Liane McKenna
- Treasurer – Norm Smyrski
- Secretary – **vacant (with Liane McKenna interim)** (Louise Holmes as backup for Liane for general meetings)

FFMV needs you - please consider volunteering....and remember that orientation will be provided



- Education/Journey Director – Lissa Macmaster
- Membership and Recruitment Director – Barbara Stokes
- Social Director – Wendy Trigg
- Communications Director – Val Karpinsky
 - Correspondence - Val
 - Webmaster/social media - Joanne (**interim**)

- **Website:**

- The FFMV website has experienced challenges of obsolete technology, security, calendar, connecting with potential members and updating. Joanne worked with FFI technical staff to resolve some of the issues and has been working with Ryan Marchant to correct the remainder. The good news is that the current structure and design remain viable and appealing. The Executive passed a motion to offer reimbursement to Ryan and are asking for ratification.
- MOVED by Hilda, seconded by Angie that FFMV pay up to \$500.00 US to Ryan Marchant for past, current and future work (for 2023) on the FFMV website; CARRIED
- Joanne will continue to be the liaison with Ryan until the website is in good enough shape to pass on to the Communications Director or delegate

- Kelly O’Bryan’s \$25 gift certificate – congratulations to Jean Nakamura for winning the draw

4. Treasurer – Norm

- The 2022 FFMV Financial Report was previously distributed: Balance January/22 was \$5510; current balance is \$4818
- Given the expense of getting our website tuned up like a fine fiddle, Norm expressed concern about continuing to offer free lunches at our meetings; after discussion it was **MOVED** by Elaine, seconded by Val that members attending FFMV general meetings pay **\$10.00 per lunch** with preregistration required and notification of nonattendance mandatory at least 72 hours in advance; CARRIED (18 in favor, 9 opposed)
 - Chris, Marilyn, and Maureen volunteered to organize the lunch for the March 18 meeting

5. Journey/Education Director - Lissa

- **Sign-up sheets** are available at the entry to the room for 2023 inbound and outbound journeys and will continue to be available at forthcoming general meetings
- Attendees would like a short presentation about outbound destinations at the general meetings

- **2023 INBOUND**

Adelaide, Australia in June 2023 – Estimated start date June 19 or 20 for 7 nights

Host coordinator – Elaine

Helsingborg, Sweden in September 2023 – Estimated start date to be confirmed for 6 or 7 nights

Host coordinators – Jean and Angie

- **2023 OUTBOUND**

Niagara (May 21 or 22 for 6 nights) and Lake Simcoe (May 27 or 28 for 6 nights)

Ambassador Coordinator – Pearl for both

Boston (Sept 19-25 6 nights) and Raleigh (Sept 25- 30 for 6 nights)

Ambassador Coordinator – Liane for both

- **2024 JOURNEY REQUESTS TO FFI**

INBOUND - We agreed to host two one-week journeys and one short-stay

OUTBOUND REQUESTS – Australia and Sweden (accompanied by short stay in Germany or Britain) with Indonesia and Thailand as next choices

6. Membership & Recruitment – Barbara

- Current membership is in the low 40s; exact number to be determined at the end of January when all membership fee have been paid
- A recruitment event is planned for Feb. 16 with Joanne hosting new members and prospective members from Marie Robinson’s Golf Club; assistance will be provided by Barbara, Wendy, Liane
- Discussion ensued about the value of word-of-mouth recruitment with friends, neighbours and members of groups and clubs we belong to
- Glynis and Val commented on the personal visit they had recently from their hosts in Mexico City in 2019 and how rewarding it was to have that international reconnection
- FFI Member Portal – verified that all members must sign up for to complete their application process https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in

7. Secretary - Elaine

- The orientation package for members of the executive has been completed and incorporated the bylaws, policies and motions/discussions from minutes of 2017 to 2022
- The next project undertaken will be updating of the Host Coordinator Manual and the Ambassador Coordinator Manual; previous HCs and ACs and their teams will be asked for feedback (contact Elaine if you would like to contribute)
- Next will be forms and procedures relating to membership and recruitment followed, finally, by incorporating everything that arises into our Bylaws and Policies

8. Social - Wendy

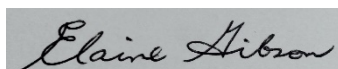
- A Games Day is being organized by Joanne at her home for Feb 26; an electronic invitation will be sent out
- Nita will reactivate “guess who’s coming to dinner”; process:
 - Member contacts Nita to offer hosting and specifying the number of guests
 - Nita advertises the dinner and members sign up and specify any food constraints
 - The host provides the main course
- One week in advance of the dinner, Nita contacts the guests and advises them what to bring, e.g., appy, salad, dessert
- We would like to have monthly social events with 3-4 weeks advance notice (e.g., Van Duson Gardens for Cherry Blossom Festival and Christmas lights, repeat of the FFMV Car Rally)
- We also encourage more casual small group activities with members in your geographical area (the most current membership list will be coming out in February so you can see who lives nearby)

9. Communication - Marian

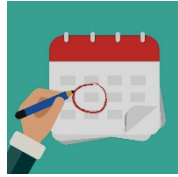
- Facebook is up to date; the site administrator is in the process of being updated

ADJOURNMENT 2:00 p.m.

RECORDED BY:



SAVE THE DATE



Feb. 16 Welcome to new and prospective members at Joanne and Norm Smyrski home

Feb. 26 Games Day at Joanne and Norm Smyrski home

March 18 FFMV General Meeting at Greentree Village Community Centre, 11:45 lunch, 1:00 meeting

May 21 or 22 **OUTBOUND** Journey to Niagara for 6 nights – start date to be confirmed

May 27 or 28 **OUTBOUND** Journey to Lake Simcoe for 6 nights – start date to be confirmed

Contact Pearl Wong pearlw576@gmail.com with inquiries about the above two journeys

June 15 – 22 **INBOUND** Journey from Adelaide, Australia – start moved forward by 4 days

Contact Elaine Gibson elaine@gibmar.ca with offers to help host the above journey

...and thank you to those who have already signed up

July 10 or 11 – 15 **INBOUND** Journey from New Zealand – start changed as Sweden unable to visit.

Contact Jean Nakamura rjnack@shaw.ca with offers to help host the above journey

...and thank you to those who have already signed up

Sept. 19 – 25 **OUTBOUND** Journey to Boston

Sept. 25 - 30 **OUTBOUND** Journey to Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact Liane McKenna liane.mckenna@gmail.com with inquiries about the above two journeys