

Friendship Force Ottawa Special Board Meeting
October 18th 2024 3pm ET. Online Meeting via 'Zoom'

Narrative Summary of the Minutes

Present: Anna Van Adrichem Rochon, Colin Leech, Joan Kinnie, Vivien Runnels, Marie France Horton; Gertraude Martin; Pierrette Benoit. **Guest:** Julie Breeze

President Anna Van Adrichem Rochon introduced the discussion which was focussed on Associate Membership. At the recent North American Friendship Force Conference that she attended, Anna determined that the FFI Board of Directors is looking to put together a tiered membership for FFI, an initiative intended to be in place for 2026.

We have already been discussing associate membership at FFO and our discussion was recently tabled. Anna has also had conversations with a few FFO members before and after the conference. Like many other FF clubs, we are all concerned about potential loss of members, suggesting that we put something in place before 2026 until FFI makes its policy.

There was a significant discussion on the potential of having associate members with all board members giving their input. The discussion included items concerning the cost of membership and fees to FFI; the aging of the membership; the importance of retaining members with experience and knowledge; the interest of 'young' people in becoming members of FF; a strong desire to develop a diverse membership, and the importance of having more than one outbound journey offering in a year.

The board recognized that there had been a great deal of input to date from members, including at the last general meeting on September 11, 2024, email communications and many conversations with the President.

Because of the change in dates for the AGM and general meeting, we would like to propose a motion on associate membership to go forward before the end of this year and the time of membership renewal.

MOTION: To develop and implement associate membership as a pilot for a one-year period (2025)

Moved: Vivien Runnels. Seconded: Joan Kinnie. Motion carried.

Anna will put together the proposal document together which the Board will receive and review. This will then be sent to the membership, with a reminder about the meeting and the AGM. There was some discussion about the logistics of renewing membership (2025), and the submission of payments to FFI.

Anna thanked everyone and the special board meeting closed at 3:56pm.