



friendship force  
OTTAWA



## **Summary FFO Board meeting Monday September 7, 2023.**

**'Zoom' Call to Order:** 7:00 pm **Adjourned:** 8:10pm.

1. Anna van Adrichem Rochon welcomed all and noted that this board meeting was being held in part to prepare for the general meeting on September the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Riverside United Church.

### **2. Colin Leech - Treasurer**

The budget to date is better than expected. Soon, Colin will try and pull together a draft budget for next year. Budget considerations include: Increase in FFO fees - FFI is likely to increase its fees; meeting costs are the bigger budget item; pins need to be purchased (est. \$1200 – cash outlay – although in effect cost neutral). FFO membership fees need to be set before November. Based on the FFI fee levels, we are recommending FFO fees are raised to \$60.

While the treasurer is away, Anna V-A R. has volunteered to take over treasury-related tasks.

### **3. Joan Kinnie - Membership**

Joan has taken advantage of her travels to introduce people to FFI. Recruiting members is an ongoing challenge every year. Most members leave because of medical reasons and older age where travel may be a challenge. We could lose members in 2024 but at the same time there's a number of people that have joined.

FFO is going to present to the United Church in Kanata on the 22nd of November. Anna who has volunteered to give the presentation noted that is an opportunity to get new members. We can talk to different groups about joining Friendship Force. Giving groups links to the popular Mongolia/New Zealand videos would be a good idea. Volunteers are welcome.

### **4. Joan Gregoire - Journeys**

FF Sacramento is not coming in the spring of 2024. Peru is coming in the Fall, and we're going to Costa Rica for two weeks, so offering an alternative date in the Fall to Sacramento would be too much. There was a decision about offering an inbound around Tulip Time instead and discussion about the numbers that can be hosted and settling on 12-16 people. Joan will be in contact with FFI re the cancelled journey, and an alternative offering in the Spring. We don't have confirmed dates for any journeys. It was noted that we seem to be having trouble getting

volunteers for inbound journeys. Our outbound trips are dependent on hosting inbounds too. Sign-up sheets will be available on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>'s general meeting. Board decided to ask potential ambassadors for Costa Rica to indicate their interest by signing up and providing a cheque for \$50.

5. **Website.** When the new executive is in place, the FFO website will be updated. Everything is being moved to the Friendship Force International 'myfriendshipforce.org' which will be the source of all FFO information. Anna will encourage all members to go to 'myfriendshipforce.org'

6. **Application Forms and photos.** In a recent email, our field representative mentioned an application form for hosts as well as an application form for ambassadors on the Friendship Force member portal 'myfriendshipforce.org'. There was some discussion about the information required for the host's form, and the activities that hosts are expected to commit to. The board decided for the time being that we would not ask people to fill in a host application form. Furthermore there was some discussion about the use of photographs and names, and protecting privacy. There will be further discussion about this in the future.

7. **Registration with FFI.** Anna will update the registration with FFI for 2023. Insurance for the numbers of people in the club is based on today's count.

8. **General Meeting arrangements.** Anna and Colin have ensured that equipment for the meeting would be available with back-up equipment available. Anna added she will see all at one o'clock at Riverside Church and she will try to keep it concise. The space has been reserved for two hours. Brainstorming for the future of FFI by Zoom is at four o'clock that same afternoon. Anna said she would remind people of the sessions because members do have to pre-reserve their space.

Board Members commented it would be interesting to hear people's feedback on the FFI future workshops.

9. **Meeting close.** Anna said she was looking forward to seeing everyone next Monday, extended her thanks to the board members, and wished everyone a good weekend.