

University of Minnesota Women's Club
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2020
Emergency Online Meeting using Zoom

Call to Order at 10:30 a.m. – Barbara Swadburg, President

Attendees: Barbara Swadburg, Marian Champlin, Joy Chaput, Connie Cundy, Barbara Cady, Sandy Gale, Susan Hopp, Georgia Heisserer, Maggie Hoover, Bonnie Marten, Peggy Tang, Dorothy Waltz, Nancy Meyers, Nancy Kluver, Georgia Nygaard

Call to Order:

- This was a special meeting called to order by Barbara Swadburg to address changes to programming in lieu of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The purpose of the meeting is three-fold
 - ✓ Discuss the loss of Ruth Jones
 - ✓ Nominating committee discussion
 - ✓ Define problems we need to solve by doing some quick thinking.

Nominating Committee Discussion:

Voting this year will take place through a ballot distributed in the May newsletter. Members are asked to print and mail in their ballots to Maggie Hoover.

Programming in Lieu of COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Barbara has shared in an email to the board a Kaiser Family Foundation report and a Harvard study. Both stating that there will be no resolution to the COVID-19 pandemic until there is a vaccine in potentially 2 years. Social distancing, masks, and the changes to living will continue.
- How do we survive as a group?
- Givens:
 - We will socially distance and use the internet and wear masks and gloves.
 - We need to adapt programs within the comfort level and safety of our members.
 - Barbara has purchased a Zoom contract for a year for \$124 per year.
 - Connie stated that the UMWC may be able to you the University of Minnesota's Zoom account. (no email accounts of @umn.edu accounts are being allowed through the Alumni Association.)
 - Sandy recommended that the Communication committee appoint a video conferencing person who could act as a coach for hosting Zoom meetings and write simple instructions for attendees. For example, attendee should stay on mute unless speaking.
 - Zoom does have easy to read online instructions.
 - Susan is using a free Zoom account, but will buy one, since it is password protected and the nobody can enter a meeting without the host approving.
 - Margaret Hoover is hosting breakfast meetings on Zoom.

Here are Interest groups that could embrace Zoom:

- ✓ Non-fiction Book Club
- ✓ Around the Campus – virtual lectures

- ✓ Hiking – get people moving, track their steps, take a hike, then meet on Zoom to share ideas and possibly host competitions.
- ✓ Bridge
- ✓ Movie Rendezvous – share ideas about Netflix and movies
- ✓ Modern Fiction Book Club
- ✓ Mystery Lovers Book Club is having an author speak
- ✓ Nature – virtual lectures
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Women’s Health- Nancy Bennett is interested in this interest group continuing.

Interest groups that will not be able to move online:

- ✓ Out to Tea
- ✓ Restaurant Ramblers
- ✓ Vagabounds

Conversation Luncheon Discussion:

- A recommendation was made to ask President Gable to deliver her message to the group and post it to You Tube. All board members approved this approach and Marion volunteered to work with President Gable and her official liaison, Katie Stuckert
- A suggestion was made to UMWC members together for an outdoor September meeting. Bag lunches could be provided. We would need to social distance. We could have a mask contest. Due to the size of venue needed for the entire group, perhaps we could arrange smaller groups and more than one gathering.
- Venues will develop their own ways of handling events.

Directory

- Dorothy recommended delaying the printing of the directory for one month.
- Since the UMWC does not have a password protected site, we could not post the directory online. Schedules for interest groups could be posted online.
- Dorothy recommended that the inside cover of the Directory contain a note that states, “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, check to see if your event will take place.”
- Directory could be shorter, and the Interest Sections could still list the section chairs and the purpose of the groups; then members instructed to go online to find events list.
- Talk to the chairs of each Interest Section to see if they agree with the direction the board wants to take.
- Dorothy sent a message to each Interest Section regarding the directory deadline and will follow up with them on the new deadline.

Interest Groups

- Let each Interest Section leader(s) make their own decision as to how members will be contacted –
 - Asked to check the Quick Updates section of the website
 - Receive a phone call
 - Receive an email.
- Book Clubs may want to publish their list of books in the Directory.
- We may lose some older members by moving online.
- A resurgence of COVID-19 has been predicted for the fall and winter.

- Section chairs want leadership right now and a plan to use. Georgia will send an email to chairs and set up a Zoom meeting.

Membership Initiative:

- Joy Chaput updated the board that the Membership committees was looking for a way to honor members for years of service. There are about 17 members that are still active that were in the 1968 directory.
- Dorothy mentioned that about four years ago a committee was formed to recognize 50-year members with a star next to their name in the directory. Most did not want that designation.

Consensus of the Board:

- Use the Zoom platform for meetings
- Use venues that offer social distancing when available.
- Interest sections send information on how to connect via Zoom

University of Minnesota Campus Update:

- Barbara Swadburg stated that research is on hold at the University of Minnesota
- Most buildings are locked.
- Dormitories are closed.
- One of two people per building are considered essential.
- Teaching staff has been told to prepare for lectures and labs, but also be prepared to teach online. No decision yet and in talking with two academic deans, they do not know. Prepare for financial redundancy.

Scholarship Program Update:

Question was asked as to plans for the UMWC Scholarship Program.

Student enrollment for fall is down by 1800 students.

Georgia Nygaard has received 31 scholarship applications so far.

Marian Champlin stated that \$74,475 has been raised for scholarships including 15 One-year Named Scholarships. That is \$3000 less than at the end of last year.

Loss of Ruth Jones and Marian's Proposal

- On April 21 Marion received a message from Margaret Rouser, a long-time friend of Ruth's that Ruth Jones had died.
- The Scholarship Fundraising Committee would like to honor Ruth with a one-year named scholarship. People could direct memorial gifts to the one-year scholarship. The Scholarship Committee has carry-over funds of \$20,000 and some of that could be used for the one-year named scholarship. The board approved a one-year named scholarship for Karen Kahler last fall. The scholarship funds would be used anyway, so this does not take money away from the Club.
- Marian Chaplin contacted Michelle Lian Anderson regarding scholarships because Ruth Jones had been the anonymous donor that we have recognized for years. Ruth asked that she stay anonymous until her death. The scholarship would be named the Ruth Jones Education Scholarship.
- Marian made a motion seconded by Georgia N. that the Club fund a one year named scholarship in memory of Ruth Jones. Members wanting to donate will be directed to

donate to Ruth's One-year Named Scholarship and the Club will contribute the difference for any unfunded portion. Motion passed.

- A story was in progress for the newsletter about Ruth Jones and her endowment that has to do with Engineers without Borders.
 - Ruth's Endowment Scholarship was named the UMWC Education Pursuit Scholarship. A \$3000 scholarship was given last year.
- Marian will let Ruth's nephew know what the UMWC is doing to honor Ruth and where to address the condolence note.
- Ingrid Lund will take over Ruth's committee along with help from Maggie Hoover.

Budget Update:

Sandy Gale updated members on the budget. We have 343 members. How many could be lost, we do not know. Moving meetings to Zoom could attract younger members. Help people navigate the electronics

Big 10 Women's Clubs Response of COVID-19 Pandemic:

Maggie Hoover asked if anyone knows how the Big 10 Women's Clubs are handling this pandemic. Some Clubs have contacted Barbara about our website. Look at Big 10 websites and newsletter for this information.

Sunshine Committee:

Marian Champlin suggested that we might want to form a sunshine committee during this difficult time.

Board Meeting Schedule:

The May Board meeting has been cancelled.

Next Zoom Board Meeting: Tues. June 2 meeting at 10 a.m.

Section Chair Meeting:

Georgia Heisserer will conduct a Zoom meeting with Section Chairs on May 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Barb Swadburg will set up the meeting in Zoom.

Susan Hopp is chair of the Art Section and she encourages creative ideas.

Adjourn at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Bonnie Marten, Secretary