

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRIENDS OF NIGER
BY SKYPE
June 24, 2018**

Present: Meredith McGehee, Larry Koff, John Hutchison, Steve Bushell, Amy Wilson, Penni St. Hilaire Yari Rabiou, Tom Dechert and new board member nominees: Phyllis Forbes, Dale Downes and Cheryl Turner

Absent: Tom Corcoran, John Baird and Seybou Douma

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm EDT

The minutes of the April 22 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Larry provided a summary of FON funds prior to the meeting. There is a total of \$38,004 in the bank, with \$6,004 to be kept as reserve, \$15,000 of general contributions, \$7500 designated for moringa/potential terre projects, some funds still with PayPal, but that have since been released and the rest waiting for instruction from the donors. There were no significant donations since the last meeting.

New Members: The new members, Dale Downes, Cheryl Turner and Phyllis Forbes, were asked to introduce themselves, describe where they had been in Niger and what they have done since.

Meredith said that she was stepping down as President as her work life had become too hectic, although it is good. She cannot give FON the time it needs. She also pointed out that FON needs someone to edit the newsletter, be the recording secretary and serve as the administrator of Facebook.

There was a vote and the new members were officially welcomed to the board.

Projects: A project update was provided by email during the meeting.

Tom D said there was nothing before the board to be approved. For a number of projects they are waiting for reports such as BFR, tent making and peanut oil. There was a discussion on how projects are identified, amounts of funding and the inability to fund large projects.

Projects that have been proposed, but not yet fully addressed include the solar panels and the sustainability of the Moringa plantations. There is a problem with not having people on the ground in Niger to monitor the projects. Meredith talked with the relatively new Ambassador to Niger about help with our projects.

It was noted that FON has challenges, the newsletter, Facebook, basic jobs that need to be done. Meredith thanked Tom D for his very helpful expertise on the review of projects.

At this point, Dale Downes, who had a previous commitment and had to leave, volunteered to be the Facebook administrator and said he would talk with Joel.

Phyllis mentioned she would like to be on the projects committee. Larry said he was pleased to have new members, but there are problems in the projects committee. There has been no progress on Moringa and solar lights. John H is the chair of the committee, Tom D reviews the projects, Amy helps out. There is no meeting of the committee and no structure.

It was agreed to meet in one week to determine officers and other responsibilities. An email would be sent out asking people to put their name forward for positions. FON needs a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recording secretary. Board members should reply to Meredith. Larry felt that the process was being rushed, but it was agreed to see what happens during the week. If all the positions are not resolved more time can be taken. Meredith encouraged members to use the phone to talk about positions and board responsibility as email has no tone.

Amy asked that the board consider a schedule of regular monthly meetings. This will be put on the table for the new board.

John H announced that the African Development University will be having a presentation in Newburyport, Massachusetts on July 22 at 5 pm.

The next meeting will be July 1 at 7 pm EDT.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Penni St. Hilaire
Recording Secretary
6/30/2018