

**Fremont Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
January 29, 2014
History House of Greater Seattle**

Attending:

Suzie Burke, Victoria Odell, Jessica Vets, Sean Erdhardt, Raymond Glandon, Tamara Beft, Ken Sanderson, Susan Fuller, Phil Megenhardt, Jessica Vets, Victoria Dzenis, John Hegeman, Ryan Reiter

Guests: Kirby Lindsay

The meeting was called to order at 8:08AM

Ken Sanderson President, read the Fremont Chamber Mission and led introductions. Ken's last meeting as President!

Susie made a motion and **Rodman** seconded to approve **November 2013 Board Minutes**; the motion was minutes were **APPROVED**.

Executive Director's Report:

Jessica – Ended the year really strong, didn't meet goal of 300, but we had 274 members at end of year. 276 this month. We have a lot new Premier Memberships – almost 50/50 regular business memberships versus Premier Memberships.

New members: Wish, RockCreek, Gendler & Mann, Thinkspace, Stone Turtle Health, Green Glove Housecleaning, Tutta Bella

Phil pointed out how networking helps so much. **Ken** mentioned that a top priority from last year was membership. We implemented a bonus system for our team; good news is that Jessica & Victoria will be getting a bonus this year for growing membership.

Calendar of awesomeness – review these and we'll look at them at the Board Retreat. We started 2014 with at 15K grant from the City to develop a database – an online tracking system that flows membership information to Word Press web site.

Jessica reviewed the Priorities for 2013, goal vs. year-end actual.

Unforeseen issues: \$15/hr. minimum age issue; West Lake Cycle Track, Fremont Bridge Painting.

Phil asked whether Art should attend this meeting in future to discuss Fremont Bridge Painting Project. Susie mentioned that no discussion of the paint color would be happening.

Jessica also mentioned that the Grant project will likely take a significant amount of her time, as well.

Executive Committee:

Ken asked Board Members to get their calendars back to Jessica before the retreat.

Kirby asked what the election results were? **Jessica** mentioned Susan, Victoria O. & Sean who are joining the Board this year. Morgan Kay will step down; Stephanie Hara will step down also.

Morgan will still chair the Tech Committee. **Susie** mentioned that we should be inviting more Retail folks to participate

2014 Board Executive Committee:

Pres. – Phil Megenhardt

VP Ops - Ryan Reiter

VP Membership – Marko Tubic

VP Communications – Pete Hanning

Treasurer – Riq Molina

Secretary – Tamara Berft

Past Pres. – Ken Sanderson

Susie motioned to approve the Exec Comm slate, **Raymond** seconded, all in favor, **APPROVED**

Ken mentioned that the Executive Committee Meetings will shift to 11:30 AM on Tuesdays.

Board Assignments:

Jessica Need help for Cheers to Chambers: Alcohol tasting; need help with ID checking, pouring, etc. **Ken** requested people sign up to help with this event; Tamara offered to assist.

Board Assignments:

Jessica Need help for Cheers to Chambers: Alcohol tasting; need help with ID checking, pouring, etc. **Ken** requested people sign up to help with this event; Tamara offered to assist.

January Awards: Kirby nominated Ralph & Sarah Weathers for the MLK event. This year's event was well-attended. They need daylong projects, for them to do during the day's event.

Finance Committee:

Jessica reporting: We are coming into the NY with a 9-month reserve. We are 5 months above our goal - in a strong position. **Riq & Jessica** will be reviewing the financial report prior to the Board Retreat

Grants Requested: Jessica reviewed the Grant & Sponsorship Requests

Susie requested an increase to the grant money to bring both the BF Day School and Softball Tournament for Boys & Girls Club; she will be matching the funds.

Phil said that with new passive income from HopScotch, reserves being fine. **Phil** made a motion to increase by \$450. **Rodman** seconded the motion; motion was approved.

Phil announced that we're starting a 3rd grant cycle for Solstice Weekend events. Will be discussed in more detail at Board Retreat.

John asked about money for the art installations (rocket, Lenin, etc.) This will also be a topic of discussion for the Board Retreat.

We are approaching our goal for 10K for grants

Membership:

Jessica – Walking on Feb. 3rd; Starting at Marko's office at 10AM on Monday; specifically hitting up retailers. **Ken** reiterated the importance of the networking aspect of this meeting

Programs:

Victoria O. -

Went thru Calendar of events to secure speakers for events, recruiting vendors for Cheers to Chambers, looking for meeting Venues, after-hours locations.

Jessica passed out flyers for Cheers; we're looking for businesses & residents to come to this event.

Programs Committee discussed an idea for the Picnic in the Park: a Celebrity "death match" between Sawant and Susie? Or someone?

Susie suggested: "Do you want to run? Do you want to represent Districts 4 & 6?"

Ken suggested inviting the Mayor to an event; **Jessica** said the April Shameless Breakfast would be a good event for that.

Marketing & Retail:

Jessica – Business Directory – deadline for ads is Feb. 4th; 10% comes to us in revenue.

Encourage people to advertise. Vehicle for advertising to Fremont area.

Ken asked about the Holiday Ads; **Jessica** said that overall the retail core is happy to have something for the holidays.

Phil asked – do we know what's going into the old Peet's coffee? **Susie** said they are shrinking their stores nationally. Susie said a "Starbucks Concept Store" which includes wine might be going in there. Cold Stone moved because the rent went up at end of 10 years lease. **Kirby** said her understanding is that if people are concerned about the empty space with paper on the windows, talk to Epi apartments.

Major Events Committee:

Phil reporting, Ken mentioned that Phil brought up Hop Scotch & SIFF, SIFF is moving in a different direction; does FCC want to be the recipient of the money raised.

We still have flexibility to use our liquor license. April 18-19th Hop Scotch event. Exec Committee unanimously voted to agree to this event.

Phil mentioned - Very similar regarding insurance & liability issues, inside Fremont Studios. Also mentioned that it would be good to have the money from this event fund our Fremont community grants. Allows us to brand/market the programs piece.

Ken asked for a motion – **Susie** moved; **Raymond** asked how much? 15% goes to grants, **Susan F.** seconded. The motion to include the Hop Scotch event onto our calendar was approved.

Phil - No updates on other events; things are moving forward.

F. seconded. The motion to include the Hop Scotch event onto our calendar was approved.

Phil - No updates on other events; things are moving forward.

Susie mentioned there's a New N. Precinct Police Chief –invite to a meeting.

Phil reminded us of the LCB coming to our Feb. Board meeting. We asked for more traffic control on the day of the Parade, especially with the R&R Marathon.

Ryan reported on Sunday Market – best January Sundays to date – 3-5K on a single day. More food, unique cuisine available. People buying a lunch, shop at Market and head over to retail shops. Mobile Food Rodeo going as planned, May 3-4th, Sunday it will include the Market area & Canal Street. Sunday it will be from 11-7.

Community Engagement: Kirby reporting; nothing specific to report

Community Partners:

Fremont Arts Council – The City is hoping that the Fremont Arts Council will have more control of the Parade this year; was a positive meeting; City seemed happy with the response.

Big issue was that parade monitors couldn't get there; this year there will be paid monitors.

Number to start with is 1 per 250 people.

Phil said that for the Solstice Parade – we want to help the Arts Council with fundraising; what can a proposal look like to get the Chamber to help with a fundraising drive annually. **John** said that he will come back with a draft proposal for the Chamber ahead of Board Retreat.

Tech Committee:

Jessica has completed the grant contract with the City; would like some review prior to submitting the contract to the City.

Geeks meet monthly; next is at Confluence Digital Marketing tomorrow night 6PM.

Safety Committee

This month's meeting was about graffiti – **Jessica** is writing up a report from this meeting; will post it on the web site. Safety Committee – changed from monthly to quarterly; will be at Fremont 2x per year; at History House in Fremont & at Seattle Bank in Wallingford.

Government Issues:

Jessica -

Gene Slagle is our "graffiti sheriff" – he was fined by L&I for his painting partner; we are writing a letter on behalf of Gene to the City to fight the fine & license requirement.

Susie motioned we send the letter; **Rodman** seconded. All in favor.

Jessica will be keeping an eye on the \$15 minimum wage issue: the Mayor has put together a task force; micro businesses are not represented. It will be interested to see their recommendations & ensure that that body is represented. There are concerns about how this will impact low-income people currently receiving government assistance and those employed to assist low-income people, whose organizations may have to lay them off with higher minimum wage.

Susie brought up the Pedestrian Zones – affects Fremont Ave & 36th. The City is looking at extending these Ped Zones. Susie will write a letter to send to the Ped Zone Mapping project to let them know our concerns. This letter will be approved via email

Other business:

Board Retreat is Tuesday Feb. 4th 1-5 PM.

Ken thanked the Board for letting him be President; looking forward to continue to be on the Board. All welcomed Phil as President.

Ken moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:37AM.

Minutes submitted by **Victoria Dzenis** and **Jessica Vets**

