

**Fremont Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting  
January 28, 2015  
History House of Greater Seattle**

**Attending:** Suzie Burke, Marko Tubic, Sean Erhardt, Jennifer Boes, Susan Fuller, Rodman Miller, Ken Saunderson, Paul Nordstrand, Rodman Miller, Paul Doak

**Staff:** Jessica Vets, Caroline Sherman

**Guests:** Kirby Lindsay; Andrew Miller, Artwalk Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by **Marko Tubic**

**Introductions around the room**

**Motion** to approve the November Board Meeting Minutes made by **Suzie Burke**, seconded by **Sean Erhardt** and were **APPROVED**.

Jessica reminded the board that a preponderance of Board Members present constitutes a quorum, so even with three members present, we can proceed.

It was noted that this is the last meeting at History House. Subsequent meetings will be held at the Saturn Building, Room 310.

**Elections:** Marko presented the slate:

**President**, Phil Megenhardt

**VP, Operations / Programs**, Pete Hanning

**VP, Communications**, Susan Fuller

**Treasurer**, Paul Doak

**VP, Organization / Membership**, Marko Tubic

**Secretary**, Kerston Swartz

Sean seconded. All in favor (5 votes), no opposed. **APPROVED**

Jessica described the VP Communications position: Newsletter & minutes are now handled by staff. This position is a member of the Executive Committee and attends Exec meetings prior to the Board Meeting. Helps steer the ship and vet the agenda for board meetings. Be at most/all Exec & Board Meetings. Help Jessica recruit volunteers and get the word out about the Chamber.

Suzie nominated Ken Saunderson and he agreed to take on this position. Marko seconded. **APPROVED**.

**Executive Director's Report: see back of agenda**

- Business Plan has changed. Focusing on top priorities for Exec Director (vs Board, last year.)  
Top priorities:
  1. Membership Development/Management
  2. Community Relations
  3. Management and Operations
- Phil will work with Jessica to develop a plan for herself and Caroline
- Board Pledge Assignment & Commitments: every board member needs to fill this out and submit to Marko.

**Membership:**

- 30% of members in December added \$\$ to ArtsFund
- Caroline's goal: call people more regularly to get renewals

- So many renewed recently (over 50) that not listed here

**Award Ideas:** Suzie—100<sup>th</sup> year of Fremont Boat Company, Doc & May Freeman. Mark & Marji Freeman. Marji ran the Chamber of Commerce for a number of years and is the reason the Chamber has Bylaws. She started the book sale with Suzie. She keeps the Lake Union Association together. They own Fremont Tug Boat and their son runs it. Is there another company that has been here for 100 years?

Dunn Lumber & Salmon Bay Sand & Gravel have been here for 100 (?) years, but didn't start here.

Consider Riq for award. Continuing on Board, no longer Treasurer.

Consider Artist Patrick Haskett who died recently. Has tried to help young people become good artists. 3 days/week in studio on canal. Stayed in camper while working & before going home to Stillacomb.

**Announcements:**

- This Friday/Superbowl: HomeStreet having a Seahawks-shirt give away. Google having an event in the afternoon... (Suzie knows)
- Congratulations to Grandpa Paul on Maximillian's arrival into the world.

**Board Strategic Planning**—covered by Jessica

**Marketing Committee: Ken**

Marketing Meeting coming up next Tuesday. Working on invoicing & renewal info. Everyone invited to attend. See Agenda for meeting schedule.

Jessica reported on Neighborhood Expo (formerly Cheers to Chambers) being held Friday, May 22, 4:30-7:30 at Fremont Studios.

Marko thanked the Barrel Thief for hosting the post retreat celebration

**Retail Committee:** Seeking smaller boutique representative to bring their concerns to the board—Board is underrepresented in this area.

**Major & Community Events: Marko**

Fremont Oktoberfest moving forward. Phil doing great job. Preparations rolling along.

Fremont Fair--Discussions with Arts Council about using the word "Solstice". Conflicts with FAC's event at Gas Works. The discussions have been fruitful and relations are smoother with FAC. FAC board members didn't realize they have another year to go. Nominations close on 30<sup>th</sup>, election closes on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There are openings for 2-3 new members.

Sunday Market & Food Rodeo: discussions back & forth between Phil & Ryan. Jessica: Food Rodeo is in May and moving to Capitol Hill, because Fremont couldn't accommodate the 2-day festival. Street Food Fest is being courted by S. Lake Union. We are losing these, but it's great to Ryan's business. If they want to add food trucks to Fremont Sunday Market, they have the permits and could do that. Wouldn't be that challenging compared to Saturday. Lucky to have this weekly event.

Fremont Solstice Parade & Fair—approved FAC funding for this. It's moving forward. Checks have been distributed and handed over in person. (Emergency check lost in mail last year.)

Solstice Parade: FAC wants to up the art by bringing in professional artists used to doing large projects. Great proposal that includes several local people, but someone has to raise the money. These folks would help with workshops to help participants do big things. Just need help with funding.

**Ken:** Permitting: need to get the word out to the Liquor Control Board. They like it when we show them we are on top of things.

**Thanks to Kirby on Festivus & Lenin Lighting.**

**Kirby:** Went really well. Turnout was really good. Created website page on Fremocentrist.com. Traffic on site was astonishing for the month. Phil Seutens was very upset and ready to pull the plug 2 days before the event. He was not happy with the lighting. We are re-designing the Merry Christmas that Lenin wears. Phil wants something to balance things out. As the star got bigger, he felt the Merry Xmas got smaller. The main thing is, we need his approval, as he is the property owner. Phil's other concern is that the nearby businesses are crowded out by people who are not entering the businesses. That's for 2014.

For 2015—3 day event, Friday, get ArtWalk involved. Saturday get American Music involved to get outdoor music, with walking traffic up there. Talking about caroling in downtown Fremont. Small 20-minute events interspersed with shopping & eating. At night, event in front of Rocket. Maybe shut down the one-way street. Phil is also the landlord of the Rocket building. 2015 push to figure out how to design & repaint & refurbish the Rocket and its lights. There will be a lift trunk. Also putting a coin box at the Rocket. Sunday would be Festivus—shopping is fun and interesting in Fremont! Talking up Christmas shopping in Fremont.

Congratulations to Kirby on upcoming nuptials.

**Technology Committee: Jessica**

Implementing Chamber Dashboard over February & March which will take a lot of staff time. This will help us clean up the data as we move the records over.

Big News: in a year this building will become a new 5-story building. Current residents will likely be moved over to the 900 building across the way on the "lid". This new building will go down 3 floors, have 18' ceilings, with 2 complete parking floors below & partial parking at grade. Can walk right into stores from the back. Grade level parking will be public. Will likely have a single tenant. Ealy Design Review Meeting, Ballard Community Center this Friday.

Building next door to Num: 45 residential units with bathroom (not true micro) and no parking. Stoner calls them "pods". What should be in the at-grade retail? Likely not a restaurant due to lack of parking.

Linden Ave—holding a wake there due to so much development north of the Baptist Church.

**Safety & Transportation:** Petition passed around the meeting to get a light at the corner of 34 & Troll.

**Finance Dashboard: Paul Doak, CFP, ID Financial, Stock and Insurance Broker for 19 years.** See back of agenda. Everyone has latest budget report. Paul reviewed it line-by-line. All in order. Keeping funding similar to last year's budget with slight increase. Reduced overall grant cycle. Hoping to do one. Caution: Will look at books and see where we are financially before committing to full amount for grants. Will be actively building up our reserves separately: \$400/mo,

\$4800/year does not even cover one month of operating expenses. It's a small and slow progression. Goal is to cover 9 months. 6 months is standard, but, for example, banks are looking for one year's reserves if applying for a loan.

**Budget: Paul moved to approve, Ken seconded, All in favor: APPROVED!**

Important for board to contribute funds so it doesn't impact Chamber's ability to fund things. Also key for board to run all by finance before committing Chamber to spend any big funds.

Credit Card Processing Update: 98% done. Have to find time for company to train Jessica. This will simplify procedures and save money.

### **First Friday ArtWalk—Andrew Miller, Volunteer Coordinator**

Has met with lots of businesses & Jessica. 15 businesses are on the ArtWalk map. Main goal for 2015 is to grow it so each business sees an attraction to ArtWalk, rather than that it's a chore requiring staying open late.

Has run art gallery in Greenwood. Has good gauge on businesses here. Starting spring/summer hopes to put together the "Red Triangle Outdoor Gallery." Give those nearby businesses that are too small to hang art some live music & removable walls hung with art outside that can be erected on Friday morning and taken down that night. Working on line-up of musicians & artists. Consider also Festivus. Tents for inclement weather. Using the space that is there. Networking with locals to make it happen and figure out a way to make things happen without requiring a fee. Consider moving the moveable walls into the banks that have to close at 6:00. Get the banks involved and possibly get funding from them. The art creates a different kind of vibe for those businesses that participate. Put more art up in the area. Pursuing neighborhood grants.

ArtWalk is a great thing to mention along with all the other events we put on in Fremont. It's good for retail. Helps support artists. All are entrepreneurs. Events like this help get rid of concept of "starving artist."

Andrew is the first ArtWalk Coordinator to come to a board meeting since Jessica has been here.

James Schmidt at Pecado Bueno has said he will hosting non-profits who want to bring together at least 80 people to raise money. Idea to consider joining forces with the Abbey and splitting the take. Network with Jessica & Ken to do some planning.

### **History House & Board Meeting Location Discussion**

Marko: Feels debt of gratitude to History House. Looking at email from Monday from John Nordstrand regarding invoice for \$1500 for space rented. There is an Issue of being able to pay this in 2015—it's not in the budget. We've been billed at \$50/hour for space, a bargain. Topic of shifting the meeting to a space that is free has come up a bunch of times, but was a formal vote taken?

**Jessica:** This discussion was part of the budget. Vote was part of the budget. Take it to the Finance Committee to figure out what the impact would be to add back in \$1500. Any issue can be vetted through the finance committee. Give Paul, Treasurer a month to review it. Jessica can invite the entire board to the Finance Committee meeting & discuss this issue first there.

Ken: Continuing support for History House is a good one. Figuring out a granting program to support them could also be considered.

Suzie: The Chamber was very much a part of getting History House started. There was no event space. Did it as a grant, then we met here, then it became a budgeted item. This was specifically built to be ADA accessible so we could have City meetings here. Whether we meet here or not, we should still support the cause. We have been able to do that here in a way that we have never been able to before.

Ken: History House has probably budgeted for this for \$1500. So we should at least get them the \$1500 as a grant.

Ken moved to move the meetings to the Saturn Building as well as giving back the \$1500 in the form of a grant. Susan seconded first part of the motion. Consider amendment to motion—put this on the agenda at the Finance Committee Meeting. President not here. First meeting for new Treasurer. Great sentiment, but too soon to commit to with more info. Amendment: pay for bill for today's meeting. Ken withdrew this motion and revised it:

**Ken's Revised Motion: move meetings to Saturn Building starting in February, pay for today's meeting, and have as topic at Finance Meeting to discuss future funding for History House. Susan Seconded. Ayes—4, Nays—3, Abstentions--1.**

Thanks to Paul for all his help over the years. Suzie: Such a different feel! Instead of seeing us as a community group, not a business group. Marko: There will be other events that we won't have room for at Saturn Building, so will likely have meetings here again.

Adjourned at 9:35 am.

Minutes submitted by **Caroline Sherman**