

**Fremont Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting  
April 28, 2015  
Saturn Building, #310**

**Attending:** Suzie Burke, Paul Nordstrand, Kathy Moeller, Paul Megenhardt, Marko Tubic, Rodman Miller, Susan Fuller, Paul Doak, James Wagner, Kathy Peterson, Christy Arrington

**Staff:** Jessica Vets, Caroline Sherman

**Guests:** Kirby Lindsay

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

**Motion** to approve the March Board Meeting Minutes by **Suzie Burke**, seconded by **Rodman Miller** and were **APPROVED**.

**Appointment of new Board Members – Katy Petersen, James Wagner and Christy Arrington. Moved by Suzie Burke. Kathy Moeller seconded and were APPROVED. Welcome!**

**CATEGORY REPORTS**

- **Membership Development / Member Services**
  - **Monthly Programs / Sponsorships** – Victoria Odell
    - **Happy Hour** is this Thursday, corner of 36 & Fremont. 14 people signed up with more coming. Lee is providing wine.
    - **Neighborhood Expo** is filling up well. Is Friday, May 22nd. Really want Consumers to come—have plenty of Businesses. It's B to C—need C. We have C-89.5 Radio spinning music, tigers from the zoo, etc.
    - **Picnic in the Park/Candidate Forum**—Ballroom Pizza is catering. **Need someone to transport the pizza!** Marco is MC'ing.
  - **Membership Dashboard**—on back of agenda
    - Lots of renewals, including Thrifty/U-Park as Center of the Universe. New: Howe Financial Advisors—joined on the spot during Jessica's regular walk around the neighborhood.
  - **Award ideas** – on back of agenda
    - Fremont held first ever ANZAC Day (always April 25th) at LTD. Attempt to hold a serious event! All about beer & biscuits.
    - Moisture Festival wrapped. Mac told Phil they were 90% full for every show. More new acts than ever & better acts than ever. One of regular performers came back with a 3-D show.
- **Community Relations**
  - **Solid Ground Fundraising Breakfast**—Christy Arrington. Netted just under \$280,000 without a keynote speaker.
  - **Literacy Source**—Suzie Burke. Fundraiser on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:30pm at Seattle Pacific University. Suzie has a table. Nancy Pearl will be there.
  - **Leukemia Foundation's Man & Woman of the Year dinner party:** This Saturday night around 6:00 pm, Suzie has totally paid table. Very moving event and upbeat, as the science/medicine is working to combat the disease—progress is being made!
  - **Center for Wooden Boats**—Jessica Vets. Has Steer for the Stars auction/fundraising event coming up. Needs a FCC Champion.
  - **Fremont Neighborhood Council**—Kirby Lindsay. Had Scott Koogley there to speak. Everyone asked about \$900M Bridging the Gap levy, but he talked about

transportation issues: Traffic will slow down--not doing anything about that. Yes, folks need to get rid of their cars. 4% of Car2Go members get rid of their cars, 4% take public transportation, etc. Kathleen Warren of Urban Art Works is decorating utility boxes. 4 have been decorated, sponsored by BF Day, and others. Since painting them, graffiti is down. They have permits to do 6 more. Artist Kyler Marx has become an uber-superstar of art as a result of doing these! Need 4 more sponsors: Tableau, Google, General UI...? One is in front of where Luka Coffee shop used to be. Can't have logos or sales ads or words. There are 27 of these boxes in Fremont, so 17 to go!

- **North Seattle Industrial Association (NSIA)—Suzie Burke.** Also had Scott Koogley speak. He got push back on the \$900M Bridging the Gap Levy. Call Suzie to get a direct line to Scott Koogley. It is too much money! Built into the plan is a lot of fluff. No promises to reduce backlog of SDOT work, but lots of money for planning. Supposedly fixing all bridges, but some bridges are being ignored, and some of the work is just seismic testing. City Council should pare it back. NSIA is working with them, because they will do “spot freight improvements”. So far nothing specific north of downtown, except \$20M to plan Lander St Overpass, a plan that already exists. Overall, the levy is not clear. We should be asking for clarity and transparency on exactly what the money is for. We now have 8 levies and bonds on our real estate taxes.
- **Fremont Arts Council—Rodman Miller.** May Day at Shelter #6 at Gas Works at 6:00. **ArtWorks** has new person, Lydia Tubic.
- **Management & Operations**
  - **Executive & Membership Committee – Phil Megenhardt** Very efficient meeting. Whiffle Ball Tournament needs Champion. Jessica will help, but needs someone to recruit teams. She has list of people. Consider a sign-up sheet at Expo. Two Items from the Planning Retreat are still being worked on--one moved to August. **Paul** is attending meetings, so can have financial discussions—YAY!
  - **Finance Committee – Paul Doak** (see handout.) Doing well. Not dipping into reserve. Anything above 25% is good. Thank you to Board for not spending money frivolously, keeping a cap on expenses, and following the process of submitting expense requests to the Finance Committee. Increasing sponsorship has really helped! Items we hope to fund in next few months:
    - Grant Cycle. Final amount to be revealed at end of April. If no billing surprises, expect to fund full amount of \$4k. Note: History House is a priority if they apply. External Review (vs audit.)
    - How can we streamline things and make managing numbers more efficient. 1099 legal issue is also ongoing. Improving transparency. Still working on credit card processing. Any business owners/CFO's want to join the committee?
    - Consider encouraging more meeting attendees to pre-pay online. Streamlines the check-in process and makes it easier to deal with if staff is unavailable. Make it a benefit for members—give discount for paying up front.
    - What is different from last year that we are doing right? Last year we had board expenses (nearly \$5k) and we also did a grant cycle that hit our financials and depleted the capital we had at the beginning of the year. Got Google & Tableau to underwrite 3 meetings this year, and they were better attended, because folks got to get inside those businesses. Take-away: spend less, be more efficient, use the financial process.
- **Marketing & Events**
  - **Marketing Committee – Jessica Vets.**

- Hysterical Markers: Rocket & Lenin empty regularly. Asked Kathy to keep the Rocket full of maps & she agreed. Marko agreed to keep Lenin's full.
  - If you want to get on the Marketing Committee, there are positions open. Goal: get Jessica out of some of the marketing tasks. Making baby steps toward that. Reviewing marketing materials: membership, advertising sales sheet, and website. Goal is to minimize the heavy weekly information newsletter and drive people to the website.
- **Major & Community Events** – Marko Tubic, Chair
  - **Hopscotch**—Phil Meganhardt. Special Occasion licenses—Hopscotch raised \$3,097.50. Chamber Staff had minimum work for maximum effect.
    - Marko asked what Sixgill is doing by creating their own non-profit for a fundraiser at Fremont Fair. Can we influence them to keep it aligned with us? They are adopting a charity so they can get the Special Occasion license. It feels a little sleazy. Suzie suggested that we have a debriefing after the fair and that is one of the things we bring up. Don't do it now, or it looks like we are picking on someone.
  - **Fremont Solstice Parade / FAC Funding** – Phil Meganhardt. Long range plan to put together an official venue of the fair. Make it easier to talk about this Special Occasion license issue. Goal is to make it the Fremont Solstice Fair. Need to make it a 5-day event. That is our plan. For now, we are making it a 3-day event: Friday night music, Saturday music and parade, Sunday Dad Day, art cars, etc.
    - **Fremont Fair Grant:** getting \$7,500 from Bold Hat to use for grants, half delivered up front and half at the end. Recommended amounts: FAC--\$5k, Seattle ArtCar Blowout--\$2000, Abbey--\$500. Suzie: what about the Picnic in the Park Police grant? Jessica explained that this is in the July Grant cycle, a different cycle.
    - **Marko moved to provide Fair Grants as stated above. Rodman seconded. No opposed. MOTION CARRIED.**
  - **Fremont Oktoberfest**—Need full attendance of board to pour at the beer gardens on September 19th.
  - **Fremont Fair is 6 weeks away.** Coming up! Have had meetings with FAC. They have key people in safety, community relations, etc. Solstice Music Festival covers all music. Fremont Foundry is first official music stage. Stranger will take over Main Stage in afternoon (unlike afternoon gap last year) doing a free RSVP music program. This allows us to open another beer garden bringing in more money for the Chamber: now a 10-hour beer garden. Posters & marketing you will see in next six days. 26 Bridge banners will go up 30 days before.
- **Advocacy**
  - Will be hearing more about the tunnel project.
  - **Governmental Issues** – Suzie Burke / Susan Fuller. **Case histories:** Mike O'Brien running. Kathryn Brook is only opposition candidate, but part-time. She is a better candidate, primarily because Mike doesn't pay attention to our district, but she does. There will be a contest in District 6. Jane Godden is running again. In District 5, north of 85th, there are six candidates, no incumbent. If you have a chance to talk with these people, do so! Focus on Affordable Seattle. The City itself is becoming harder and harder to do business in. Income tax? Capital Gains tax would drive venture capital out of the city. For the City, most important to vote in good people to the City Council. Picnic in the Park is on 17th of June. Pizza and salad. There will be LOTS of candidates. Format: call people up by Districts with quick 30-second

intro & then pull prepared questions from a hat. **We are looking for specific pre-determined questions.**

- **Safety**—Kirby. M&S grocery is gone. Find Moses & give him an award? He allowed liquor to flow out the door, creating a safety hazard. Problem for the owners of the 7-Eleven next door. Those owners (FCC Members) are now running FreMart, where M&S Grocery was. There has always been a homeless encampment there. Suzie thinks owners are packaging M&S Grocery up to sell. 7-Eleven owners may be hoping to buy it. The building needs help. They have strong issues about following the liquor laws. They want to not have to compete with someone selling liquor to anyone.
  - We now have a retail recreational marijuana shop: “Hashtag” on the corner of 35th & Stone. Part of large national organization. Awesome for Stone Way Café. Claim to fame in media—ID’s are checked inside, not outside. The smell will be a problem, even if it is not smoked.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEW BUSINESS**—Next meeting is at Saturn Building. Finance Committee meeting will be at Starbucks.

- **New Board Members**—Any questions?
  - Marketing Committee—Christy—how does one get on it? Just did!
  - If you see something happening, email Jessica and she will get info out on it.
  - Haven’t seen Jon Hegeman or Linda Hanlon from FAC. What are they up to? How is their fundraising going? Project has best of intention & hopes. We did sign a formal document, is it going OK? It’s up to them.

Adjourned at 9:30 am.

Minutes submitted by **Caroline Sherman**