

**Fremont Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
August 28, 2013
History House of Greater Seattle**

Attending: Suzie Burke, Jessica Vets, Marko Tubic, Kathy Moeller, Phil Meganhardt, Pete Hanning, Tamara Breft, Raymond Glandon, Paul Nordstrand, Ryan Reiter

Guests: Kirby Lindsay, David Wernli, Jeff Joy

The meeting was called to order at 8:01AM

Marko Tubic Vice President, read the Fremont Chamber Mission and led introductions. A motion to approve **July 2013 minutes by Suzie**; the motion was seconded by **Kathy** minutes were **APPROVED**.

Executive Director's Report:

Jessica -Update on membership – new members Stephanie Haslam Lawyer and Nearby online registry, Partnership with Nalu will not be happening and will look to find another way to get webinars to happen. But we will be partnering with Nearby with their online registry. OED Grant – Phil and Ken to volunteer to help to vet ideas and develop the grant application.

Introduction of Seattle City Light representatives, David Wernli and Jeff Joy.

Seattle City Light Presentation and Feedback:

Marko updated Seattle City Light representatives about the power outages that have occurred in Fremont in the past and how this impacted businesses.

David Wernli and **Jeff Joy** – the big one was during the festival --- mylar balloons were caught and shorted the lines – metal twine shorted the system – do not know the exact location. Feeder circuits was knocked out – but we have a good sized conductor so did not burn the lines down, only tripped the circuit – 1 hour 58 minutes

Comments from **Pete Hanning** about the power outages – first concern is safety, then about tabs from credit cards that cannot be run and people are leaving and angry – loss of thousands of dollars to business and in tips to staff. The power outage in XX was the real loss with over 10 hours, but that Pete was able to get insurance money due to the duration. It turns out this was a planned outage.

There have been 6 outages this year – much more than in years past – this is really affecting a certain area in Fremont, PCC and some of the bars are the most affected. **Raymond** reported on the food spoilage and how much loss in the thousands (including spoilage, lost wages, lost sales hours), will be buying a generator due to the outages. City website is inadequate and call in lines are also slow to respond and often don't know what's happening – communication is an area for improvement. **Pete** feels that this is City Light's problem! **Suzie** reported about her experience including the police officers and their interactions with City Light during the Fremont Fair. The feeling is that City Light does not take the responsibility.

Raymond asked if there are solutions to the past year's outages. **David** answered that planned outages should get two weeks – but **Raymond** said that the communication is bad at best, there is little notice and there have been shifts in the timing of the planned outage. David will give his cell phone so that if there is a communication issue we can contact him for an update.

1. Fremont Fair – an outlier
2. Planned outage that went bad
3. Lightning strike – that had a number of issues along with it, there was a lot of hunting for the issues, with pumping of vault water straight into the Ship Canal
PCC Vault lid had to be changed – story kept changing on how long and how extensive the work would be. PCC has been bringing in generators
4. A small planned outage, late at night for the Saturn Building – did affect Red Door, but not PCC

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Phil added on 34th Street near Phinney Ave there is a cold patch from Seattle City Light left over from the high wire stuff and this should be fixed since it's a mess that SCL left over a year ago.

Jeff responded that there is a plan but that you have to work with SDOT and other agencies that might delay the fixes. But he will check on this area to see what the delay has been to fix the street.

Paul said that telephone poles were temporarily put in and never fixed, finally Suzie's crew fixed due to safety concerns – there is a problem with the follow up to projects. **Jeff** agrees and SCL is trying to come up with a plan to better follow through.

Raymond – is there any way we can get help with buying or renting a backup generator? Due to past experience – happened over last Thanksgiving. **Jeff** says that the City of Seattle will not install generators, but you can and then can try to get reimbursement by putting a claim into the City – but this is for planned outages. But this might not work for unplanned incidents.

David assures that there will be enough advanced notice for planned outages – David will back this up with his name and cell phone.

Pete says he wants to have a different relationship with City Light – businesses want to be more of a partner in this and less of a fight against the City. But we want SCL to reach out to Chambers as a partner.

Jeff mentioned that when he was in SF, lots of issues; we put a policy in place about mylar balloons. It would be great to have policies to cover safety as well. We also want to make sure that our vaults aren't slippery; we've had people slipping on the vaults. We're trying to buy new ones with anti-slip. The outage process – we have crews working lots of hours, lots of projects going on; sections where outages are going (Cap Hill, SLU) businesses are impacted every day. Would be nice to meet with neighborhoods ahead of time, then we could have a plan.

David added, opening the communication, sticking to the plan, letting you in on the negotiations.

Kirby said that during the 8 hour outage, she had people asking her where they could get information; does city light have a website?

David answered Yes – outage map; with location & description of outage. We want to have much better reliability. We appreciate your patience.

Executive Committee:

Marko requested any award ideas for August? **Jessica** suggested the Groudspcak event – GeoTour; the Library got huge numbers of people, people were lining up at the History House. (Official new name is Geocaching HQ)

Board Assignments:

Jessica mentioned that anyone who is interested in the Healthcare mandate should come to the Sept. 18th meeting on this topic. Need help with this event.

Finance Committee:

Jessica (Riq out) - Everything's looking good.

Solid Ground Report –

Jessica reporting - The last highlighted area – \$4412.22 – how we came up with this number is noted on bottom. This is 75% of the proceeds from the Fremont Fair, which is not already allocated to other Community Projects Grants. How much should we give to Solid Ground this year? A very clean way is to give Solid Ground \$5000 and the rest goes into the kitty.

Phil asked whether any of this money could come back to the Chamber; we are marketing this neighborhood all year long.

Marko said this could happen in the future, but we still have the 75K hurdle to get over.

Pete pointed out that it's 'like paying off a house without any interest'. We are the Chamber promoting our neighborhood & businesses. I don't think we should do the whole \$5K.

Phil made a motion to give them \$4K, which was seconded by **Pete**, APPROVED.

Membership: The next Member Monday Walk is September 9, 10a at Marko's Office

Marketing & Retail:

Jessica reporting

Hysterical Markers are looking good; Story of the Rocket is a great addition.

Jessica mentioned there are still 3 that need to get updated/fixed. We need to come up with a story in front of the Fremont Coffee – it could be about the "westward expansion of Fremont".

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Major Events Committee:

Phil reporting

Oktoberfest – marketing materials are available; posters, coasters, business cards. Bridge Banners are up. Sent out a Marketing Toolbox.

Marko asked Board members to please share this event on Facebook.

Phil reported that we are on budget for sponsors. Main stage has not been sponsored yet. **Phil** asked **Jessica** to pitch to some of the local companies, like Tableau Software. Volunteer T-Shirt needs a sponsor, too; maybe a real estate team? Volunteers are always a big topic of conversation – 990 needed. We’re doing some narrowing down. We don’t have that many who don’t show up; if we don’t have enough volunteers on Sat. night, lines get long, we can’t get people into the event b/c it’s not flowing. 170 people are needed to pour beer that night. About 550 volunteers total needed for that night. Having enough beer volunteers helps us have a quality & safe event. We need 85 more people; would love to see those filled by Chamber members; they bring an element of responsibility.

Jessica mentioned a potential post-volunteer event to keep people around. Make sure they can stick around and enjoy the event. **Marko** said it would be nice if there were a formal tent for volunteers to go to after their shift. **Kirby** suggested the volunteer area where people could decompress; **Phil** also suggested a gift card from local restaurants. **Jessica** said that it’s a great team building activity; they keep groups together. Talk to anyone who’s done this with other people, they say they loved doing it with their friends.

Pete offered to have banners at Red Door.

Marko mentioned issues with Mischief Distillery: **Phil** said we’re looking for a way to have everybody win; they want to be closed and charge Oktoberfest; we need to go back to them. **Marko** suggested that **Pete** and he talk with them; taking this discussion offline with **Phil**. **Jessica** went with **Ken** to speak to Mike, who said that this year it’s just not going to work for them. **Phil** reminded the Board that they are a manufacturer, not a retailer. The rules are different; we need to stay on top of LCB rules.

Sunday Market:

Ryan reported that they might be bringing back the holiday event. It was nice event; we may do it earlier than December.

Other upcoming events could include:

Creating once a month event at the Market.

Next Cinco de Mayo – down the canal; just on a Sunday, same footprint as Sunday market.

Saturday event would be a Taco Showdown. Neighborhood wide event. May 3-4th 2014. **Phil** mentioned having a beer garden with the Chamber being the beneficiary.

Cannabis Cup – **Phil** mentioned that event is happening at Fremont Studios.

Community Engagement:

Jessica reported that Wiffleball Tournament now had 18 teams!

Community Partners:

Fremont Neighborhood Council

Kirby mentioned that they are happy about all the money that the City will be spending in the future. We should know about these projects and their effects. They seem to be pushing for the City to do more.

Jessica presented the list of upcoming/potential projects:

Fremont bridge is getting repainted; possible contest around this. 4 full weekend closures for bridge painting – not known yet which weekends. May – Sept. periodic closures.

Ballard Transit study

Crossing at 43rd

Stone & 34th

Upper Fremont RPZ as well

Linda Clifton talked to new owners of Isabella; asked for a new level of parking.

Fremont Arts Council

Kirby mentioned meeting between Solstice Cyclists & FAC; Peter Toms announced that the parade paid for itself this year; he thinks the parade should raise more money to be able to start planning the parade next year. **Jessica** clarified it’s been done this way in the past.

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Safety Committee: Pete – we are safe. No meetings over the summer. New Captain in the North-end.

Government Issues:

No report.

Other business:

No new business

Marko moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:41AM.

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