



**Fremont Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
August 30, 2017
Brown Paper Tickets Conference Room**

Attending: Pete Hanning, Phil Megenhardt, Suzie Burke, Sean Erdhardt, Ken Saunderson, Marko Tubic

Staff: Trisha Rarey, Caroline Sherman

Guests: Kirby Lindsay, Barbara Lueke, Jon Hegeman

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 AM by Pete Hanning

Introductions by **Pete Hanning**

Congratulations to Jon Hegeman on his new grandson!

Motion to approve the July Board Meeting Minutes made by Suzie, seconded by Ken and were **APPROVED**.

Motion to remove Paul Doak from Fremont Chamber's HomeStreet bank accounts made by Suzie, seconded by Ken and were **APPROVED**. Phil reported that he has already been removed.

New Business

Lenin Statue Discussion

Caroline summarized The Chamber's history. Referenced the Exhibition Agreement, the 2008 insurance notes. Land owner wishes to remain anonymous. (See attached)

Barbara's understanding: if ever sold proceeds would go to heirs of Snell. Snell family believes they own it and any proceeds would go to heirs.

Next Steps:

- Does our insurance cover us or Phil? Is it listed on our liability policy for things like Festivus?
- Landowner does not want his name used, and especially doesn't want his name released to the press.
- Suzie brought a packet of postcards from 10 years ago and suggested we reissue them. Also suggested she contact Jeanne Muir for photos and promote the hell out of it.
- Pete summarized that we agree to promote it for our business's benefit. And there was general agreement.
- Barbara urged us to pay more attention to it and take advantage of its presence.
- Ken asked if there is any further communication from the Mayor's office. Should we celebrate that it is here? Press conference with Chamber, FAC, Fremont Neighborhood Council.

- Kirby indicated that Neighborhood Council also is in favor of the statue, but Toby “doesn’t care”.
- Marko suggested doing something on Labor Day.
- Ken asked about the offers.
 - o Is there a way to contact the nephew? Check out the Vice article sent by Barbara.
 - o Suzie says we should, in good faith, pass along any real offers. We have nothing to do with the price. Barbara did get an appraisal.
 - o Barbara did get a third offer from someone who wants to turn it into a OEF Memorial (Operation Enduring Freedom.)
- Phil is concerned that our staff is spending time on this. Membership drive, website launch, etc. He suggests moving all communication on this to the Board. Suzie volunteered to take this on. The office is to forward all Lenin communication to Suzie and not respond.
- Kirby pointed out that portions of the proceeds, per the agreement are to be allocated to the Chamber and Peter Bevis.
- Exhibition Agreement is not enforceable, per Suzie. Kirby believes it is still in effect. Suzie says we want to ensure we still have a voice in the mix. Suzie believes the statue will still be there 10 years from now. We have 2 small obligations:
 - o To honor Lewis Carpenter’s legacy by passing on offers.
 - o To protect Phil Suetens.
- Barbara says we should keep the tone positive.
- Marko reached out to Maxine Snell. She referred him to Peter Bevis, perhaps because she owed him \$5k.
- Jon Hegeman said that Brian Regen offered to buy the statue for scrap value and remove it.
- Great windfall for Fremont! 5 letters to the editor and more!
- Barbara got to talk to the NY Times and say that irony is alive and well in Fremont.
- Ken recommended Senator Carlyle for an award for his excellent response about the statue.
- Senator Carlyle & Gael Tarleton now share offices in Fremont.
- Ken offered thanks to Jon, Barbara, Kirby and Suzie.
- Barbara and Jon left. (9:02am)

Finance Report – Phil

Budget vs Actuals

- Meeting income down for July by ~8-9 people
- Ride the Ducks was good, though we only had one Duck, few expenses for pop. Phil offered pop he has we can use.
- Membership—numbers are dropping! But we are coming up on a big surge. This is where we get 80-90% of our revenue. We need to be talking up the Chamber and its relevance.
- The Walking Guide is set to be relaunched again. Ready to go on sale with the WG. Most of the updates from last year were done. We will renew it for this year and next year revamp the paper version.
- The Board really needs to focus on Membership!
- Fremont Oktoberfest planning is going well. Sunday All Ages Beer Garden is on track.
- If we want Police help, we need Scott Lindsay, City Council Candidate.

- Need Board Volunteers Oktoberfest Saturday night 8:30-11:30pm!
- Fremont Rocket bill—Chamber DID pay it in 2012. Haven't paid it since then. Phil will draft an email and indicate that we don't own it and won't be paying it—it's an installation art piece. Consider sending to City Council member and asking for help. Try getting a waiver, because they give more value to the City. In theory it is for an annual inspection to ensure it is safely hanging over the sidewalk.
- Ken wants to brainstorm with the Board regarding membership.

Phil left at 9:15am

Website Redesign

Culture Foundry, Hans Bjordahl and Jory Goehle

Where we are in terms of process: content development strategy, design, production development and then Quality Assurance launch. Done with Content Dev, working on design.

Logo: fun & funky, nod to industrial past, elements (sun & water). Variants: b/w, white on black for t-shirts, changeable element in the middle. Files will be delivered in layered format, so we can put whatever we want under the bridge. It is good to go, and we can start using it now.

Ken—it's a lot more legible, the font is more modern.

Website Design:

Top of the page dualities: can rotate, it's up to us, they don't recommend making too many of them. How to feature all of them and not favor one or the other.

Map: add all parking lots.

Troll page and all sights/arts pages need a map it button.

It ports to all devices.

Do we have anything from Fremont Arts Council regarding use of the Troll image. Artist Steve Badanes gave permission to FAC, is this right? Do we need to clarify this with FAC and get their approval? Concern is that if we connect the Troll to commerce, the artist will sue. Pete to call Maq Davis. We are trying to do something for Fremont, help us ask the FAC to allow us to do this. Basically, we can't use the Troll to match to a business.

Marko: have the troll page connect to FAC and steer donations to FAC, etc. Show all the love to FAC.

Consider a "duality" page of Troll & Fremont Solstice™

Business directory imported—includes non-members for a long time ago. Needs updating.

Calendar of Events—start it on Sunday! It's our biggest day in Fremont. Maybe call it Funday!

We are on track to launch by Oktoberfest. We don't know what we don't know. So far everything is moving along nicely. It's been a lot of fun.

We want to send folks to Fremocentrist as much as possible. She has history and archives and art info that goes back years and years.

****Add link to Art Index on Fremocentrist!**

History: Canal, George Washington Memorial Bridge (Aurora), Library (Carnegie Library), BF Day School (predates Public School system), Gasworks Park, Woodland Park Zoo, Fremont—Gateway to Woodland Park Zoo. Hysterical Items: Biggest underground resource of beer, Fremont Drug Bldg that moved 3 times. Ask Kirby for more. Berlin Wall piece at Tableau Bldg.

Next Steps for Board: none. This is a check in. Next review will be a launch candidate.

New member: SPU in the works. Need to add them to website.

Old Business

- A. Board Recruitment
- B. Finance: Contract with Rain City CPA; Board Member signatures updated at HomeStreet Bank
- C. Pull up businesses that applied for business licenses in a given zip code. Then go to them in person. Only works for folks with a storefront!

Chamber Staff Reports

- A. Membership and Office Management - Caroline Sherman (see attached)
 - a. Get Board help with new businesses. Consider a Welcome to Fremont event to new businesses.
- B. Marketing and Programs - Trisha Rarey (see attached)
 - a. Ride the Ducks is thinning. Previous years, 8 ducks, 6 ducks, 2 ducks, 1 duck. After the Duck accident, things really declined. Talked to SLU & QA Chambers EDs to see if they are seeing declines in events & membership. YES! Everyone is having trouble, it's not just us. Other Chambers are considering shifting to BIA's, but that is not what we want to do. Everyone else is struggling.
 - b. Tonight, Happy Hour at the Helm. The Helm is NOT sponsoring it, so we will have to pay for food.
 - c. Ally from Jenny Durkan called & Trisha will tour 12:30-1:30, round table 1:30-2:30. Starts here at front of office, table discussion here in this room. Registration link sent. Get Eugene Wasserman here, also Sara Nelson.
 - d. September, Google, new facilities manager. Got 100% confirmation for Google in October at 8.
 - e. Shameless Self Promotion in September at noon. Needs a location. Suzie suggested Hales, but it's very expensive. Networking ones are popular, so if we can get folks to pay for their food or sponsor the food, Suzie can get the room.

Committee Reports

- A. Membership Development/Member Services - Ken
- B. Marketing and Major Events
 - 1. Oktoberfest & beer pouring commitments – Phil
- C. Programs
 - 2. Wiffleball Tournament--Ken
- D. Community Relations
 - 1. Fremont Arts Council – need representative
 - 2. Fremont Neighborhood Council – Need Representative
 - 3. North Seattle Industrial Association – Suzie

- E. Advocacy
 - 1. Governmental Issues – Suzie / Susan
 - a. Nothing to report.
 - 2. Safety & Transportation Committee – Pete
 - a. Nothing to report.

Announcements and New Business

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Suzie, seconded Paul. So moved at 10:07 am.

Minutes submitted by **Caroline Sherman**