



Board Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2019
309 N 36th St Conference Room

Attending: Pete Hanning, Brandi Gaines, Carrie Bauer, Sean Erhardt, Tim Tackett, Phil Megenhardt, Michael Wanaka, Paul Robinson, Ken Saunderson

Staff: Whitney Moore, Caroline Sherman

Guests: Mike Kelly, Hiatus Adventure Club

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 AM by Pete.

- A. Mission Statement read by Pete
- B. Introductions

Approval of Minutes: Tabled until next month, because not printed out.

Finance Report – Phil

- A. Referred to letter from Rain City CPA. Appreciated what the minutes said about Phil's management of the Fremont Fair financial arrangement through Bold Hat Productions. Phil discussed these arrangements with Brandi, as well.
 - a. Phil: We are moving over to our new CPA, Stephen Fickenscher slowly but surely. Phil interviewed him. He does for the Wallingford Chamber what Caroline does for FC. Jordie, at Rain City CPA was ultimately not comfortable with the scope of work. Stephen will complete our 2018 tax return this summer before our November 2018 extension deadline. Stephen has seen the FC/BHP Oktoberfest arrangement and is OK with it.
 - b. Pete: We have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure we are transparent and oversee this situation is clear and keeps us in good grace with the State of WA.
 - c. Phil: This is exactly what Stephen is going to do. He will look at everything when he does the taxes to make sure we are doing everything needed to be clear with the State & Feds.
 - d. Pete: We need to make sure the Board is very clear about how things work, why the Fremont Oktoberfest bank account exists, how it works, what our fiduciary responsibility is, that we are following the letter of the law. It would be great to have Stephen speak to this if he is qualified to do so. Important that we revisit this and make sure all (new) board members are clear how it works and that it is effective and clear and legal with no risk on the operation of the event and to the board and that the function of the bank account is clear.
 - e. Phil: The 1099s also need to be produced for contractors associated with this same account. Stephen is clear on this.

- f. Have Stephen come to June or July board meeting.
- g. Financials—we are doing fine. The biggest revenue engine is Membership. Meetings come in second. We are vigilant on membership, but the Board has to make phone calls and help sign folks up.
- h. New bookkeeper, everything is going well. Hopes to have a report to mail out at the end of this week or early next week.

Open Business from Last Meeting

- A. **SDOT Rocket bill.** Whenever a sign or art extends over the sidewalk, the owner of the sign or art must pay a permit fee. Phil Suten owns the building the Rocket is on. We don't own the Rocket, and the City has now classified it as public art. However, we have a 3-year backlog of annual bills at \$140/year for a total of \$420. Phil is reluctant to pay the bill, because it suggests ownership.
 - a. MOTION: Pete moved we will pay the City bill for the Rocket for the public good for the publicly owned art piece that is the Rocket this one time. The understanding is that we will not pay any more bills going forward and that we do not own it. Phil seconded. Brandi suggested we wordsmith the letter with the check making it very clear that we do not own the Rocket, but out of civic responsibility, we will clear this bill. MOTION PASSED.

- B. **Crane update.** Turner Construction did a great job with excellent communication. Happened during the Troll Stroll. Streets closed to vehicular traffic which actually made it easier for pedestrians in event.

- C. **Rocket Painting:** Paul has received one bid from Adrian: \$21,880.42. There is a second estimate coming, but Adrian's mother died suddenly, so it will be while until he has that in hand.
 - a. If we get it painted, who claims ownership?! (Reference City bill for the Rocket above.) Do we need to bring in the original folks who set it up? Jon Hageman would do a Tom Sawyer version (per conversation with Pete), which might work fine, but not necessarily be the best job long term. The FAC doesn't "claim" it, they do no events there, etc.
 - b. We need to get it done, and we don't want to go around and around on it. Let's look at raising money around the neighborhood. If it costs \$22k but lasts 20 years, so be it.
 - c. Also, how long is that building going to be there? Phil will call Phil Suten to let him know we are thinking of painting it. We will keep the Rocket no matter what, even if Phil ends up selling/redeveloping the space.

- D. **Fremont Tour by City Agencies:** SCL, SPU, Police, Fire, SDOT, Parks all attended. It was a cool event. Ken saw SDOT painting sidewalks today. Phil, Kirby, Ken, Whitney, Heather from Hales, and the Fremont Neighborhood Council were all there. Heather addressed the encampments. Discussions covered crosswalks, bike lanes, Center of the Universe sign and more.

- a. Meeting set for Sunday morning (June 2nd) with SDOT maintenance department to address the 34th St bike lane. They have 90 days to get all our requests taken care of. Phil talked to someone about the poles that seem to be permanent. Meeting is to have the permanent ones removed.
 - b. The tour was a very positive experience. It was great to be able to partner with all these different agencies and the varied businesses in the neighborhood. We pointed out diversity of transportation: busses, cars, trucks, and diversity of uses: industry, retail, tech, BF Day, etc. They got a good understanding of the neighborhood issues to partner together going forward.
 - c. Suzie had addressed bike lane improvements east of here, and there will not be substantial changes going forward.
 - d. SDOT will be putting in a 4-way stop at Linden and 39th and Linden & 41st—YAY! Will be much safer for the kids.
 - e. We discussed our geographical boundaries, BF Day, the pre-school, the light at 1st Ave.
 - f. Take a picture of the cross-walk painting and share it in the Blast—Your Chamber at Work!
 - g. FC is a volunteer organization. University Business Improvement Area is tough, because they get taxed more for a few improvements and money. But we already pay those taxes, and we still want those resources here. If we can get our head above water, there should be an article about BIAs vs Chambers of Commerce. The City tricks groups: take your money, ask you what you want done with it and then give you only some of it back. It's run by a professional bureaucracy, rather than grassroots. BIA's tend to focus only on retail areas, so it's restrictive—doesn't tend to include industrial. They have all been invited to the Picnic on the Dock. It's relationship building. We're not making any endorsements.
- E. **Experience Momentum Grand Opening** went very well. Paul gave a speech, we got a tour of the building. Sweeney Chiro & Mod Pizza also are opening up soon. Hope to do a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
- F. **Fremont Fair:** All is going well. Frogs holding up the sun, because it is so sunny! Branding going well. Musical lineup is filling up. Center stage is sponsored by Masonic Lodge in Green Lake (for last 20 years!) Everything is going very smoothly. Weather will be the issue. City is helping more with traffic control with load in on Friday on Evanston. Logistically fine. Promotionally—follow us on Instagram and Facebook (#FremontFair.) Naked Bicycles-- Diane Newsome taking this on. The bicycles will be in front of the parade. No circling. One run through the parade route. Tipping point: bike riders wanted money. So FAC said fine, you can ride in front (FAC caved.) Floats ... FAC has their posters out already, looking good. Celebration at Gas Works Park. Banner on crane? Streets start closing on Friday. Rolling close from West to East from 1-3pm, then 3-5pm, then 7pm.
- G. **Membership Matrix reviewed:** Clarifies different levels of membership, size and categories. Caroline has updated the website and FM with this info. We can add different

benefits as we go. We should review every year. No need to make a brochure, having on the website as a PDF is enough.

- a. Discussion with Riveter: Mother Ship concept that would let their members have some limited members. None of the benefits would mean extra work for the staff. Hoping to finalize this concept this month with the Riveter, and then roll out the model to other shared office spaces, like the Saturn Building, or the Space Building. Go to the landlord and ask him to join at a premium level, and then you can get your tenants to get engaged—it's a benefit for the landlord. We go back to our Mission of a healthy business climate—those small businesses in those buildings need to be part of the community.

Chamber Staff Reports—see handouts

- A. Membership & Marketing – Whitney Moore
 - a. Member Coupons with Thank you/Welcome emails discussion. Add to benefit matrix? Is this what we want to do? Or maybe have an Offers page on the website? Have an Offer's page, and maybe sell the space in the Thank You/Welcome page. Link it to the Walking Guide.
 - b. Urban Float & Yellow Dot Café are closed.
- B. Membership and Office Management - Caroline Sherman

Committee Reports

Programs:

- A. Killer Tech Tips went really well. Brandi did a great job emceeding it. Great discussions, interesting new developments. Adam at Google had the gal from Google My Business come up from San Francisco, and folks were working it right there on their phones and laptops. It was a home run! Big thanks to Adam and Google. Net \$700 (catering was free.)
- B. Picnic on the Dock, sponsored by PayChex. 46 candidates invited!! Co-Sponsored by the Seattle Propeller Club, NSIA, Ballard Alliance and Northwest Marine Trade Association. BBQ catered. Informal great moments in Gov't 101. Tables with topics (Public Safety, Transportation, Industrial Lands, etc.) Candidates and attendees rotate around the tables. Would be helpful to have bullet points for each topic. Issues may be different than a similar event hosted by neighborhood groups. Politicians will want to be general, and we want to make sure they answer key questions. Media will be invited. Need as much board participation as possible! Want folks to know that Fremont Chamber is hosting this event! We'll drive the registration desk, so hang around there to meet folks. If there are potential big fish coming who might want to join, steer them to board members. Ken set the rate at \$25 for everyone to simplify things.
- C. July Meeting at The Riveter on Fremont Makers: furniture to tugboats, etc. Ryan from Fremont Market, Sooz Appel from Pelington Properties.
- D. August, Happy Hour at Mischief
- E. September, CEO of Theo's
- F. October, Nalanda West, Social Good

- G. NEED BETTER BOARD PARTICIPATION!! Five members have attended less than 50%, four 0%, and some 1 meeting only.

Marketing: Focusing on Tourism efforts instead.

Event Updates:

- A. Bike lane issues: no fixed bollards. Will have a meeting first. SDOT is being very responsive. They will send out a notice so we can invite folks.
- B. June 9th: Rock N Roll Marathon. Businesses along 34th/35th—be aware. It's really early in the morning. Shouldn't be too much of an impact.
- C. Obliteride banners going up on Bridge, thanks to Fred Hutchinson
- D. Pete read Rodman Miller Honorary Membership Resolution.

Board Membership Drive Telethon: no print out—will be sent later.

Award Ideas:

- A. Newly opened Town Hall, Artist in Residence did a musical score (Fremont Bridge Tender) Video installation, avantgarde, pianist, etc. Really cool that the City gives 1% for the Arts. No Q&A, but we should acknowledge the artist who did the piece.
- B. Turner Construction for their smooth operation and listening to our concerns.
- C. Holly Whidby, former bookkeeper

Guest: Mike Kelly, Hiatus Adventure Club.

- A. Left his engineering firm to pursue something more fulfilling: Educational Adventure Program. Try to mitigate travelling faux pas. We reach out to churches, schools, etc. give them cultural etiquette, planning such events. Working with SPU—what are you teaching your kids about travel? Helps fill in the gaps in curriculum or helps to re-write curriculum. Michael Wanaka got Mike to join!

Announcements and New Business—Pete

- A. BF Day's Village where all the classrooms turn into a business: June 25th. Consider handing out tickets to the event during the Fremont Fair. (Tie it to the Lollipop--Parade Rules: No banners, no words, no power, etc.) The kids love it. We will Blast it. Marko Tubic has helped with the Village Bank. Can hook up with a particular business, if you like. As a Chamber of Commerce, the FC should get involved next year to support that. Retail 101 is super fun to watch. There are volunteer opportunities.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Ken, seconded by Michael. So moved at 10:06 am.

Minutes submitted by **Caroline Sherman**