



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 24, 2020**  
**Teleconference via BlueJeans**

**Attending:** Brandi Gaines, Paul Robinson, Amina Leighton, Phil Megenhardt, Carrie Bauer, Suzie Burke, Sean Erhardt, Jessi Brookman

**Staff:** Whitney Moore, Caroline Sherman

**Guests:** none

**Call to Order – Brandi**

The meeting was called to order at 8:37AM by Brandi.

- A. Introductions—skipped.
- B. Mission Statement was read out loud.
- C. President Message: Happy Solstice! Lots going on along with COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter. Feel free to chat with Brandi about anything. Brandi is reading and learning and having open town halls and giving support to Black Community, striving to be better, giving off Juneteenth, allowing folks to participate. Learning every day of new injustices, very emotional time. Big struggle. Wants to check in with everyone on this. Feel free to reach out and share. We are celebrating Pride this month, as well. Celebrate the Black Trans Women for starting the Pride celebration month.
  - a. Phil: Interesting to see what is happening on Capitol Hill. Interesting to reflect on my own business and how I move around and work with the police. They are stressed on so many levels. I have a lot of relationships with a lot of officers to keep our events safe. Pause, learn, listen. Two people at my house have been participating in the protests. Nice to see young people.
  - b. Suzie: I don't think Fremont could have sustained what happened on Capitol Hill. It gives me a real feeling of insecurity. Could you open your business without the police department? Doesn't believe everything that has been portrayed in the media.
  - c. Brandi: Good point to learn the facts and understand. We each need to take our own responsibility to learn. It's a personal thing.
  - d. Suzie: A former Black politician is leaving town says our civil rights are being taken advantage of. Suzie is not sure the problem is what is being portrayed.
- D. Brandi: Great to see Fremont opening, enjoying a pint, seeing faces, stores re-opening. It looks different, but our community is doing it the right way. Love how our community is maintaining limits, wearing masks, restaurants coping with it.
  - a. Suzie: Fremont Brewing—one of their people had had it and hadn't told them. They cleaned thoroughly and re-opened 5 days later for Father's Day.

- b. Phil: Sean, opening for Phase II. This is where the Chamber can be super helpful. We can help them if they have to close for a while and re-open.
- c. Jessi: Phase II & PCC. It's been interesting. Hot/cold bar. Allowed to open that up. Having max capacity inside the store is a challenge. Looking to have the food out on the patio, and cleaning between customers. It's a challenge to have someone just to maintain that area. The masks are a challenge for breathing & working. Workplace 3-person sanitation crew—all they do all day. Our store has the highest/2<sup>nd</sup> highest customer count.
- d. Brandi: Visits often and notices all the efforts in the store.
- e. Jessi: Customer count went up 15% from previous week.

**Approval of May Minutes:** Suzie moved to approve. Carrie seconded. A vote was held, and the May minutes were APPROVED.

### **Financial Report – Phil**

- A. May Highlights/ 2020 Budget Scenarios
  - a. COVID budget is the best thing we are looking at. We are still in the Worst Case scenario. Biggest income line items are Fair. Everything is affected, businesses and community.
  - b. Suzie: Plenty of Naked Cyclists wearing masks—no paint!
  - c. Still looking at ending the year with some money in reserves, but not enough to get through 2021.
  - d. Brandi: Fremont Dock renewed and upgraded to Center of the Universe! Thank you!
  - e. Phil: 3-4 months into it, trying to stretch our dollars, we need to meet as Exec Board and have a finance meeting in July to look at what 2021 could look at. Will give a number as to what we could have in reserves by the end of the year.

### **Open Business from Last Meeting**

- A. FC Relief Grant Fund Status—Brandi
  - a. Has provided the materials to staff to move this forward.
  - b. Caroline does not know how to set up payment portals. OK to ask John T for help, per Phil. Better than Culture Foundry. Or ask CF to do Pro Bono.
  - c. Brandi: As soon as we have money in the Bank, then we can work on timing.
  - d. Phil: Talked to Ken. He is happy to help, wanting direction, aware of difficulty of moving quickly.
  - e. Brandi: has been slow getting it together but doesn't want to move forward until we have money in the bank.
- B. Re-opening Fremont
  - a. We already talked about businesses opening. Hashtag is opening.
  - b. Suzie: For Ribbon Cuttings—thinks businesses would be all up for it.
  - c. Brandi: Whitney's been doing a great job of getting the word out. New businesses, we could do a GO/RC for Hashtag or Uncommon Cottage, Dreamland.
  - d. Paul Shanrock/Dreamland/Stampede—get him to join, offer him a two-for-one.

- e. Suzie: We are lucky that he's moved into the old Red Door. We don't need to get him to pay us first thing.
- f. Brandi: Let's show him some love.
- C. Grand Openings/Ribbon Cuttings
- D. Fremont Sunday Market—Brandi
  - a. Suzie: In the hands of Mayor Durkan. No reason for it to be closed. Jon Hegeman is taking it with grace, but we need it open. Right now, it is in her plans. No permits. They need their permit re-activated because they are in the street.
  - b. Whitney: Caroline & I had a virtual meeting with Jon & Ryan. Got a letter just now from Ryan for Mayor Durkan. Ryan just sent us the talking points. They never had a permit in the past from long ago, so that is the sticking point.
  - c. Suzie: Never used to have permits. Fremont Sunday Market is reason we have outdoor markets in Seattle at all. 5 years with no permits, then shifted to Ballard Market-type of market. City kept saying we didn't have various things. Jane Nolan went to the wall for us for signage, which the City was saying we couldn't have. What finally got it done was Pike Street market for 50 years without all these issues. This is important to Fremont and we have to get it going again.
  - d. Brandi: Whitney, please share Ryan's talking points so we can get a letter written.
  - e. Suzie: 200 different little vendors—this is their front door. They are not all there at the same time, but this is their opportunity!
  - f. Phil: It's rough in the market world!
- E. Job Board—see Caroline's report below
  - a. We now have one on the website. Members can post, anyone can view. Self-sustaining/automated—no staff time required to manage.
- F. Virtual Solstice Parade—Phil
  - a. Happened over the weekend. A lot of people are trying to switch to virtual. FAC worked hard at it with TPM. Fremont Fair came and went. There were naked bicyclists.
  - b. Nature made summer happen anyway—interferes with our branding. Folks have come out wearing their Solstice-wear.

### **Office Reports—see handouts**

- A. Membership & Office Management – Caroline
  - a. Masks
  - b. Frosty Beer
  - c. Suzie will make member calls
  - d. Resurrect Telethon
  - e. WG is evergreen for 1.5 years
  - f. Suzie: If folks want to re-up, give them plenty of slack.
  - g. Brandi: anyone who struggles, keep them on.
  - h. Caroline: add to monthly minutes to track when we want to start terminating members
  - i. Suzie: There are businesses that are NOT coming back. Re-locations on Stone Way that will change the lay of the land.
  - j. Brandi: Riveter—closing co-working spaces. Online public talks & virtual stuff now.

- B. Marketing & Membership – Whitney
  - a. See report.
  - b. Not a lot happening with online events.
  - c. Brandi: talk up Open, Phase II, sales, etc.
  - d. Suzie: And driving people to the location. Shift from online back to in-person.
- C. Programs – Whitney
  - a. Brandi: #1 Relaunching your business would be most beneficial.
  - b. Suzie: Talk to Dan Strauss and get his help to re-open the Fremont Sunday Market.
  - c. Phil: It’s a great idea. The bigger the coalition, the more that gets done. Other Chambers will disappear. We are strong. The more we can get more Chamber/Associations invited the better.
  - d. Google My Business stats. People find us first through our website via organic search. For not investing any money in any search terms or ads, we are doing great.
  - e. Carrie: Thank you for posting all the Sun Dragons. We’ve raised over \$14k! The kids had a great time and the parents loved that the Chamber supported it. The collaboration helped significantly, because there were more Sun Dragons than expected!
  - f. Suzie: Went in for brunch at Shawn O’Donnell’s. It was good for folks that participated that folks would be running by.

**Announcements and New Business—Brandi**

- A. EIDL Grants for Small Businesses—accepting new applications
- B. Lenin Statue & BLM
- C. King County Mask Distribution -- Caroline
- D. What to add to the Calendar of Awesomeness?
  - a.
- E. Award Ideas from June – who and why
  - a. Suzie: Nominated the Sun Dragons for an award for getting the kids out and involved with Fremont again, and getting the Dinosaurs as unofficial dragons.
- F. Gov’t Committee—Suzie
  - a. When will City re-open paid street parking. Suzie’s input was that it is OK to re-open, but communicate it really well, so folks don’t complain about getting tickets. Will start at lowest possible price. People now think parking has no limitations, so the City has to do education.
  - b. SDOT/Metro bulb at Phinney. We worked with them and tried to reduce the interference. Got them to reduce the radii to make turns easier. We were not kept in the loop, but now the same guy who worked on it will communication about the North Northlake Way sewer project. As he’s talking to Suzie about that, she’s going to try and get SDOT to ask Metro to move the buses south to the bus zone to reduce congestion by Starbucks. SDOT is crying no money. Everybody in SDOT is new. 30-year bridge. The idea that they can choose not to fix it is crazy. It limits everything. Phil Talmadge, lives in W Seattle, once our Supreme Court Justice. Reach out to him and get a petition together with thousands of signatures. Loss of property value & way of life if you do not re-up our bridge.

- G. Fremont Oktoberfest—if the City is opening up permits in September, those fall events need to take into account what it’s going to do. Code for no further permits through the end of the year.
  - a. To be on budget need to sell tickets in August.
  - b. Brandi: We need to talk about what it will look like.
- H. Other

**Adjourn—Brandi**

Meeting ended at 10:03am.

Minutes submitted by Caroline Sherman