



**Board Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2021
Teleconference via Microsoft Teams**

Attending: Brandi Gaines, Anquida Adams, Carrie Bauer, Suzie Burke, Amina Leighton, Sean Erhardt, Nate Mouttet, Michael Wanaka, Paul Robinson

Absent: Phil Megenhardt, Jamie Hoffman & Raul Lezcano

Staff: Rachel Sparks, Whitney Moore, Caroline Sherman

Guests: Mike Stewart, Ballard Alliance & Compassion Seattle; Kate Nolan, Compassion Seattle, Charter Amendment 29. Contact Kate: katenolan1000@gmail.com

Call to Order – Brandi

The meeting was called to order at 8:38AM by Brandi.

A. Mission Statement was read out loud.

B. Introductions— Mike Stewart & Kate Nolan. Welcome to Rachel Sparks! Farewell to Whitney! Rachel has strong Social Media skills. She's stoked and looking forward to keeping Fremont Funky! Brandi: She also has strong membership drive, fundraising, skills, etc.

Approval of April Minutes: Brandi moved to approve; Ken seconded. A vote was held, and the April minutes were APPROVED.

Open Business and New Business – Brandi

Charter Amendment 29, Compassion Seattle Initiative.

Compassion Seattle website: <https://compassionseattle.org/>

Compassion Seattle Amendment: <https://compassionseattle.org/amendment>

Mike: Yesterday there was a challenge to the ballot title that has been resolved. The signature gathering campaign is underway. Exciting news. A plan that includes accountability that addresses homelessness and encampment issues.

Lots of homelessness, state of emergency since 2015. Still lots of homeless people hungry & homeless & addicted. A state of disorder. Ballard Commons park. It took weeks to resolve and clear out the encampment. When Leary Triangle gets cleared out, people move back to Ballard Commons. City has not worked hard to resolve the crisis. That's why this group came together to put this out to a vote to the people to instill a plan to support these people. Duality of purpose. We need to address the underlying issues of these people. At the same time, we have to preserve our parks and open spaces to be available to our citizens. These encampments are detrimental to business & economy. We know the most vulnerable in these encampments are vulnerable to

crime. After recent clearings, new individuals came into a moderately stable encampment bring violence, sexual crimes, etc.

See presentation & 5 bullet points:

Make mental health & disorder treatment available

Create behavioral health

Provides stability, preserves city's ability to close encampments. Improve performance in dealing with encampments. Address racism. Would establish a dedicated fund. Moves human services to a general service of the city government. Work with Regional Homelessness Authority. Charter Amendment sunsets in 2027.

This is a solution where there is no solution in place. Key City folks are leaving weekly. It takes time for a new mayor to ramp up. We don't see change coming, and we feel passionately that we need a plan now.

Suzie: A lot of passionate people out there. In Lance Randall we have someone ready to move forward. Compassion Seattle has the purpose of making the city more focused with the money. We need someone who will tell the police to go back to work. We have 2 candidates up for election and if we get 5 votes, we are set. Don't give up on this election.

Mike: not as hopeful about the change in government. Is hopeful that Lance would take the Compassion Seattle Charter Amendment and run with it. Using Charter Amendment because if passed it can't be thrown out and changed.

Ken: Thank you for your leadership on this. Talk about how the Charter Amendment helps with accountability. Haven't see any reports about what is working or not. Haven't seen reports on how leveraging different groups to work together.

Mike: Would require the City to work with a regional authority, and there are very specific requirements in the Amendment. Remember Rob Matson. Amazing leader in our neighborhoods. He said if the City has the will to do something, they will find the resources, if not, they will come up with thousands of reasons not to do it. That's a big piece of the accountability. Another part is the reporting. Every 3 months a report will be required to City Council and the people. Right now, the system is so messed up. City funded outreach workers, the Hope Team, etc. Two weeks ago, the Hope Team was having conversations with homeless people. They were passing out the business card of Compassion Seattle's outreach person saying he could get them a hotel room.

Suzie: This last week, the Chief Seattle bunch were asked to take a contract with the City to do what the Navigation Teams were doing but they declined. They wanted a police officer with them. Everyone who looks at this, the city doesn't have the will to do this. They need a big fat stick. We need an initiative of the people saying this is our baby. I'm not sure the accountability of writing reports.

Anquida: Do you have it online to view it? Please put link in chat. Are you working with other organizations that are helping out? There are several systematic efforts. The City wants to work on

it but doesn't know how. There are so many pieces going on that aren't working. Have to be on the street for a year, to get a space. If you have all these systems put in place to put people back on the street, how to get ... Corporate has people at the top with great ideas, but they haven't done a walk about to see what's going on. There are people with ideas but haven't been through it and there is nothing in place to help. I'm willing to connect with you and your organization. There are things that I put in place on ally-ship, and there are other pieces that will help create system with the things that is broken. I'm willing to help, but not for free. If you want to connect, I'm willing to help out.

Mike: Kate will list endorsing organizations. Would love FCC's endorsement:

Kate: Alliance for Pioneer Square, Fare Start, Coalition of folks who are working with members of the homeless population every day. Chief Seattle group not being comfortable working with the City because it's so disorganized. United Way, SODO BIA. Link in Chat to actual amendment website. Can also contact Kate with any questions.

Brandi: What is the delta between what the City is doing vs what the Charter Amendment would propose?

Mike: On a call with Human Services department: Is there an org chart that delineates all the service providers they work with and who is the HSD staff person liaison. There was none. So, the delta would be pretty significant. Lots of issues with encampment removal. There is actually little to no political will to remove encampments. Legal precedent that you cannot move a person if you don't have a bed or services. We want the city to be able to make that offer so they can do the removal if necessary. Comes down to interpretation and having a plan with real accountability. 7th floor & 2nd floor.

Brandi: need a place for people to go, because can't clear them out without a place for them to go.

Suzie: Challenge: these places are NOT all full. Mary's Place, Salvation Army who have been doing this for 25 to 100 years. We've redefined what shelter is. It's whatever you want to get off the street, which is unattainable. The push is for 4500 new units of apartments, but we have not had success with that at all. Seattle Housing Authority. If you do not get folks involved in fixing their own problems.

Anquida: I was working with someone who said they are full due to COVID. Folks who do not want to go to the spaces because they've created a dangerous space. I got kicked out because of racism. When you are a BIPOC person, they are pushed out of their jobs and because of different things that happen to them. Need to see what Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity is. Having racial PTSD. I've called so many different organizations but has been turned down. Has gotten space thanks to people she knows. The reason folks go on drugs because they cannot get food to eat. Not being able to take care of themselves because they are at a deficit. There are a lot of factors going on. Important to know this before saying folks can't take care of themselves.

Suzie: I slept on a mattress for years in St. John's shelter. Had to close as there were no takers. Mary's Place had removed folks off the street. Problem: drug induced mental state that says when I want to I will, but don't want it right now. Running into folks who consider this a way of life.

Brandi: Great discussion. Mike are there any town halls to further discuss this to learn and understand further?

Mike: Shelter space: there is space and there could be more. City is reimagining what it can look like. Salvation Army site, congregant site. 300 beds. Read the story look at the photos. Amazing an impressive. They have place 30 people into permanent housing. A model that stood up. Was to be fore Covid not needed, so turned into this.

Kate: Will host some opportunities to talk. Brandi's point about deltas. These ideas didn't come out of nowhere. We researched other effective solutions. It is important that people feel the place is safe. That 2,000 units required includes tiny houses, hotel rooms, 24hour place where folks can stay and not be kicked out. Additional funding for health and behavioral aid. There are so many different aspects of what causes chronic homelessness.

Brandi: Check out the links and do research. The Chamber will research and get together later to discuss. How do we get notified of events?

Kate: Let Kate know, and she has a list she reaches out to regularly. Can also submit email at their website.

Suzie: Hasn't Greater Seattle endorsed this?

Ken: The Charter Amendment is not a done deal. Need signatures & then to the ballot.

Kate: we need just over 40,000 signatures over the next 4 weeks. Getting signatures during COVID is new. We have the petition online on our website. Must be double sided with amendment on one side and signatures on the other. Then mailed back to Kate. Kate can also drive them out and pick them up. We have a downtown office. She's there most days and can drop off there. Finding ways to do this. They have to be mailed, no electronic signatures.

Mike: Kate is working on a day to do drive through signature gathering. It's a high threshold, but we did research before crafting the ballot initiative. Homelessness is 40% above all else of interest & voters want this.

Brandi: Thank you for taking the time. This is not a small issue. Thank you for bringing this to us today. Brandi has signed up to get info.

Financial Report – Phil

- A. May Highlights: Phil not present. Brandi sent out documents. Review on your own. We will discuss at next board meeting.
- B. Coming up tomorrow is Kent Chamber event. We can talk to them about various issues and we can learn a lot about them, and teach them about what we are doing.
- C. Next week: SDOT Route 40 Forum. Noon on Tuesday. Please come. It's going to be focused on a lot of the major industries. Ken has reached out to major industries. Brandi has reached out to Tech World. Please come, listen, bring your ideas.
 - a. Suzie: This isn't about how nice buses are, it's about how much of the street scape become buses only. Our streets are narrower. We don't have the space to give to buses only. On 34th St set aside only for bikes. Trucks are already finding the curb when trying to make the turn. Trouble going west as they hit that funnel, as I call it. Narrowing the street effects a lot more than whether the buses run on time. They have to hear it from folks who like to ride buses but understand that our streets are not wide enough to give away dedicated lanes and move the things we have to move goods. The trucks have to find another way to go.
 - b. Brandi: We don't have that space. Please come listen, understand and make your voice heard. On June 1st. Everyone should have that info. It was in the Blast!

Office Reports—see handouts

- A. Membership & Office Management – Caroline
 - a. See report.
 - b. Brandi: use the demographics to help support our different businesses.
 - c. Anquida: Will use the demographics to make sure their voice is being heard.
- B. Marketing, Membership & Programs – Whitney
 - a. Whitney's last report. Training Rachel, she's going to be wonderful. Two training days.
 - b. Way more visitors to the website. Did more referrals to the website. The most visited: Troll, Peace of Mind, Ship Canal. Support Businesses top 10% of visits.
 - c. Anti-Shoplifting event was recorded. Asked if there were grants for small businesses, and the police department weren't aware. WA Retail Association to discuss the possibility of creating a grant to use money for anti-shoplifting preparations.
 - d. Prospective dates for upcoming planning – for Rachel.
 - e. Email open rates down in May, likely due to lack of subject lines.
 - f. 609 people found us on Google, so she maintains this.
- C. Suzie: Is West Seattle treating her right?
- D. Whitney: Yes, they are awesome!
- E. Ken: Thank you for your work. We go back many years to Seattle Best wishes at West Seattle Chamber.
- F. Ask the Port of Seattle about getting them to Terminal 90 and Pier 66.
- G. Nate: Thanks to Whitney!

Fremont Events – Phil (not present)

Solstice Week—Brandi

June 15-20, Wed-Sun. Stationary floats created by artists through FAC, live mural paintings, businesses decorate their outsides to make it more festive. Fremont Sunday Market will only do Sunday. We will have the Art Cars. Looking at having Marshall Law Band on a stationary float. Looking at Fundraising. New poster has been done. Email has gone out to original stakeholders, so businesses are now aware of the plan. Not closing any streets, will have additional garbage & recycling bins. With increased traffic, leads to lots of trash.

Suzie: Add that the aerial circus will setup on the Peninsula, 1st NW U-Park. Sat & Sun 4 shows each day. Idea is to bring people down to Mischief. Chatting with Theo about restarting the factory tours in time. Limited. Everyone wants this. They have some picnic places that someone could use for a popup or food truck. Food truck folks who had a business here are coming back—Cosmic Ice cream. And Fremont Baptist will be coming down with lemonade. If you know anyone with a food truck, remind them that the weekend is not programmed. They could do what they normally do, get a site and come in. All of our places should be open. What about the beer gardens? We have lots in our businesses. They are open and waiting for you! Every one of you is a megaphone for that weekend. Get everyone talking about coming back to Fremont for some fun. We can't call it the Fair or the Parade, but we can call it fun.

Carrie: Is there a flyer?

Brandi: FremontFair.com will be updated by June 1st. We'll keep everyone updated with links & info. Shared art walk map link. Walking tour info.

Caroline: Will there be limits to people coming and going?

Brandi: Basically not. Streets won't be closed, so folks need to adhere to social distancing. There are a lot of logistics about that. 20' from band. Fremont Market has their guidelines. Expect long lines and go early.

Suzie: In the good old days, folks put out sidewalk sales. Suggest this! Make yourself visible!

Vaccination Popup—Brandi

About 50 people were served within 2.5 hours. They said they had a steady visiting flow. Except for the chaos from an anti-vaxxer who came by, it all went very smoothly. News coverage: Channels 5, 7 and 13 and the Mayor!

Ivar's Salmon House Ribbon Cutting! They are open and Copper River salmon is in!

Sarah Kennedy has resigned from Fremont Vintage Mall & Chamber. Jamie Hoffman or Raul Lezcano will come to meetings as they are available.

Announcements – Brandi

- A. Announcements
- B. Calendar of Awesomeness ideas from May – what and why?
 - a. Vaccination Popup
- C. Award Ideas from May – who and why.

- a. Suzie nominates Whitney for all she's done and for not singing her report. She has done way more for us and she's just awesome!
 - b. Also, U-Park and Roxy's for the Vaccination Popup! Wouldn't have happened without them.
 - c. Thank Kurt Kaposuzoglu for attending the N Precinct monthly meetings and providing report.
- D. Picnic on the Dock on September 15th. Dick Dickson? Happy Hour 4-5:30? Great to highlight a business. Suzie moves to approve & Brandi seconds. Phil has no conflict with that date. Suzie likes the Happy Hour timing.
- E. Ken: What are next steps with Compassionate Seattle? It's a health specific discussion. Let's help get this on the ballot and have the discussion, if you don't want to support the Charter Amendment.
- F. Suzie: Let's get it on the ballot and have the discussion. This is how the Chamber usually does it. Even if it's something you are opposed to. I do want every candidate on the ballot discussing this. We need to see results before Compassion Seattle can be implemented. We change two City council members, new mayor & new name for City Attorney. Ann Davidson is running. It's a good discussion.
- G. Ken agrees.
- H. Brandi: Get it on the ballot and then have the discussion.
- I. Suzie: And get ballots out. This is how you do it. We've done that before. It's political, but it's what
- J. Ken: We don't have to get a yea or nay in favor or opposed to the Amendment, but it's important to have the discussion, hold the folks in office accountable and find out what they think the solutions to homelessness are. Let's get it on the ballot without taking a position on the Amendment.
- K. Suzie: It's the better spot for us. If we sign on they'll ask us for money.
- L. Brandi: supports getting it on the ballot and having discussion.
- M. Ken MOTION: Fremont Chamber of Commerce supports putting Charter Amendment on the ballot. Suzie seconded. Any dissensions? No. All in favor. Motion Passed!

Adjourn—Brandi

Meeting ended at 10:04am.

Minutes submitted by Caroline Sherman