



Board Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2022
Teleconference via Microsoft Teams

Attending: Brandi Gaines, Phil Megenhardt, Suzie Burke, Amina Leighton, Sean Erhardt, Ken Saunderson, Paul Robinson, Steve Mitchell

Absent: Carrie Bauer, Jamie Hoffman, Anquida Adams, Raul Lezcano, Nate Mouttet, Michael Wanaka

Staff: Caroline Sherman

Guests: Leo Griffin, Acting President, Friends of Troll's Knoll; Natalie Zisko, Principal, B. F. Day Elementary School; Elisabeth Emerick, BECU; David Della, We R Seattle; Bradley Leatherbarrow, Brooks Running; Sara Nelson, City CM; Haley Hanson, New Beginnings

Call to Order – Brandi

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

- A. Mission Statement was read out loud.
 - a. The Fremont Chamber of Commerce strengthens the business climate and improves the quality of life in the Fremont community.
- B. President's Message: Welcome to this very chilly morning. We have quite a number of guests today—very exciting to see.
- C. Welcome Guests: Leo, Elizabeth, Haley, Natalie, Bradley, David, Sara

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

Guest: We R Seattle – David Della

Suzie Burke and Brandi Gaines have participated in our conversations. David Della, lifelong resident of Seattle, born and raised, schooled. Born on Beacon Hill, 7 different districts, now on QA Hill. 2020 lots of issues came up. Lots of concerns about how those issues were being addressed. We R Seattle had a variety of calls with about 40 people on the calls lamenting about what was going on with the city, what was going on and influence it. Lots of voices not being heard. Didn't have an opportunity to weigh in and be heard. What came out of it was out of Norm Rice's play book in 1990. Held an education summit first year Norm was mayor. Culminated in city wide summit of 2k people that outlined what was being discussed, like bussing and economic development.

We took that page and took all conversations and invite folks from all districts to speak their minds. What are some solutions you have that you would like the city leadership to support to

move the city forward? Conversation since last summer. Different in 1990—could meet in person, things directed by Mayor. Now it's an all-volunteer effort, neighborhood leaders, activists, virtual. Conversations on Zoom with 10 or fewer people. It's not ideal. Set up a Zoom virtual conversation that is guided to get us to our goal of completing the meetings in an hour. We've reinforced concerns around the city, heard some great solutions. City wide summit in mid-May (moving target.) Organizing info we've heard, set up meeting with elected officials to hear the results. Event where we can pack a place in person invite mayor council city attorney to listen, get their commitment and move forward. Focused on having these conversations throughout the city from organizations and people who have not been heard.

We encourage you to participate. Please let me know if you'd like to be in a recorded conversation to be added to the mix. We want to provide a venue for your voice and ideas. Very important for the leadership of the city to hear your voice. Hope to hear you, like Brandi and Suzie. There is a role for you to play to keep our voices heard and keep solutions on track.
Line to We R Seattle in chat.

- a) Suzie: It's a good experience. I suggest anyone participate. 7pm. Diverse group of people I wouldn't normally meet. I represented Fremont all the way. Businesses need to participate. I think I was the only business on the call.
- b) David: We can mix it up and have one neighborhood, or mixed neighborhoods. Mixing people helps to hear different perspectives and ideas that might not be on the table. It's a good model for City Government.
- c) Brandi: thank you for coming to share about We R Seattle.
- d) David: I'll have someone follow-up to loop you all into future conversations.
- e) Sara Nelson: joined the meeting.
- f) Brandi: Thank you for responding so quickly and for supporting Fremont.
- g) Sara: Thank you for sending me email about public safety early on. Got me thinking that small businesses have not been on the table. So, I have to talk about public safety in my committee.
- h) Brandi: Yes, it's an important topic.

Financial Report – Phil

A. January Highlights

- a. Most of you have seen documents. As we enter 2022, we're doing great so far. Currently all revenue engines going forward are on track, especially Membership for first month of the year.
- b. Confirming 2022 budget. At board retreat, we reviewed the budget and presented a 2022 budget. Is it approved with line item for Executive Director? Very conservative, minimal growth. The main thing is having the expense of ED. In budget line item for hiring as contractor and employee.
- c. Brandi: take a vote on budget via email. Take a vote on hiring ED today.
- d. Suzie: I would move to send that budget out for those to review. I'm glad to vote on the budget which included a new director. I don't believe we decided how to hire/contract for that, but we know we have the budget for it.
- e. Brandi: we are starting out as a part-time contractor position.

- f. Suzie: We don't have bandwidth to manage an employee. It adds an extra layer and as a volunteer board we don't have the bandwidth for it.
- B. VOTE: Approve 2022 Budget
 - a. Suzie moved to approve budget; Ken seconded. Approved! Send out to everyone for Review!
 - b. Phil and Caroline to send out.
- C. VOTE: Arts Fund
 - a. Phil—open discussion \$7,255.71 in Arts Fund. Motion to pay the Arts Fund to Fremont Dock towards painting it. Do we want to use 80%/ \$5,804.57 of the Arts Fund, or do we want to use the \$7,255/100%? Leo adding decoration is covered under the NERF Grant.
 - b. Brandi: We have \$800 for Center of the Universe signs if we could use 80-85% that would be by my proposal. A good solid \$6k or \$6.1k would leave enough for the signs and anything small that comes up. Suzie, Amina what are your thoughts on this?
 - c. Suzie: We looked for someone for 2 years to paint the rocket. Meanwhile paint was flaking off onto roof of the building that holds the rocket, and the building owner was not happy. Cost \$15k because we needed a big piece of equipment to get up there. Stenciling will be lighter weight. Now it is painted and sealed and should last a good long time. \$6k would be adequate.
 - d. Phil: I propose \$6,100 out of Arts Fund to reimburse Fremont Dock for painting the Rocket.
 - e. Ken seconded. Thank you, Suzie and Amina for making that happen. Approved!
 - f. Phil: Sara, we have an economic and cultural challenge—FF and Parade submitted permit to organize logistics for it. Right now, there is a conflict with Seattle Mariners and ?? with Solstice parade and hearing from OED Special Events committee and SPD doesn't have resources to support the Parade. Dan Strauss has been aware of it. Talking to preside of art council, Cindy Kraftt. What they are trying to do Mar 1st go-no go on Parade or Art Week, but we need a parade to get our culture back up and running. Sara, anything you can do to help would be huge.
 - g. Sara: Lets have an offline discussion. Need to hear what Dan Strauss said.
 - h. Phil: You are the only one who has responded. Rock & Roll Marathon, when it came to town, they were going to try and change the parade. We changed the parade time. Lot of creative thinking, we've gone on ?? for the parade and fair are symbiotic—they have to happen together.
 - i. Suzie: Sara, you're right we should do an offline on it. There should be change on how it is done. Maybe we have to change to make it more police-able.
 - j. Phil: Yes, we've got to have a parade. Events are moving forward. Music on main stages by middle of the month. It's going to be a great come-back.
 - k. Brandi: Did we hear back if FAC is going to do the parade?
 - l. Phil: they voted to do the parade. Then they ran into lack of police and OED. Now it's 2 things: yes, they want to do it, but they're dealing with police issue. Cindy reached out to Phil on that.
 - m. Brandi: Getting on that meeting with Special Events is what's next.
 - n. Phil: Sara if you can push for that meeting that would be great.
 - o. Sara: Yes.

Fremont Events

A. Fremont Fair / Fremont Solstice Parade

Open Business and New Business – Brandi

A. Public Safety—

- a. Talked to SPD about theft, crime, violence. PCC. Good discussion with Diaz. Officer retention is tough. Down XX officers. Retail theft program. Fremont Vintage Mall has taken part. Personal safety training program. Get your space reviewed for safety: Cameras, register placement, etc. See links in chat. We've had safety Officers come do these programs in the past and will again in the future.
- b. Suzie: will send flyer for next Fremont Rotary meeting—1st Tue of month is about crime and public safety. Anyone can attend via Zoom and in-person at Hales.

B. Transportation/SDOT Route 40 update

- a. Coffee with Dan Strauss, talked about SDOT Route 40 will have impact, not necessarily good in our neighborhood. They have taken some of our comments and made changes but are still moving ahead. One lane for transit and freight. One lane will be taken down and will cause bottlenecks.
- b. Suzie: We're pro transit, but also pro traffic. Everyone should take a look at 36th to Leary. We're down to one lane backs up to Evanston when traffic is bad and down to one lane. Folks will take the 39th St bypass and will not come through Fremont.
- c. Sara: please share info on this.
- d. Brandi: next design review at 60%, removing sidewalk bump outs that would impact bike paths and walking. They have assured us those have been removed. Concern around Westlake where they didn't take into account folks living on house boats or businesses along there. Businesses were not consulted. See links in chat pod and meeting notes. Link to project itself and comment, even if comment period isn't open, please send thought pro or con to SDOT
- e. Suzie: The biggest problem with the route is north of the Ship Canal; lane width is narrower. They treat it all as if we are a pass-through. We have a bridge—it opens. No matter what they do, the bus will be interrupted by bridge opening, so their fairy-tale. We're more interested in how many folks they pick up. We are not a pass-through.

C. North Seattle Industrial Ass: Interbay link extension, there is definite impact coming into the neighborhood, smith cove, Nickerson St, Ballard. No direct impact, but considerable impact to neighboring areas. Environmental Impact Statement is open for comment through April 28th. Can learn about various alternatives, including tunnel or bridge.

- a. Ken: We've discussed the alternative to have the main station in downtown Ballard where the people are. Not even discussed. Market St or 14th. Market—will displace a number of businesses. 14th will displace breweries, maritime industries, etc. Advocating for downtown Ballard station.
- b. Suzie: We know the two bridge alternatives aren't really real—no Coast Guard approval of a 136 ft bridge. Have to look at tunnel that puts a landing where people want to be, likely 17th in Ballard. Hard to contemplate what we're going to say on EIS. Take a look and think reality.
- c. Brandi: Not until 2037.

- d. Suzie: Businesses will be thinking 20 years ahead. 2/3 of Coastal businesses could be put out of business.
- e. Ken: Hard to move coastal businesses.
- D. Wallingford Chamber
 - a. Brandi: Will operate on their own for the foreseeable future. They will reach out for help, if needed.
- E. Executive Director search
 - a. The job has been posted on our website and on Indeed and LinkedIn. We've received six or seven resumes so far. The Executive Board will be meeting this week or early next week to review them. Send anyone who might be interested to our website, and they can apply.
- F. Marketing video—Meraki Agency
 - a. Will convene marketing meeting next Tue or Thu for an hour.
- G. NERF Grant—See Caroline's report
 - a. Leo: convening meeting on art for Rocket.
 - i. Suzie, Brandi
 - b. Phil: Electric Pen, John Pletsch (206.528.1207, john@electricpen.com.) Very keen on having his company contribute time/energy for putting graphics back up on it. Let's connect on his info.
- H. 40th Anniversary
 - a. 40th year as Chamber, will celebrate in May. B. F. Day celebrating 130 years! Will celebrate together. Caroline sent out a poll to supply trivia. Please respond! Nothing specific for the celebration, but it's coming up. Please send your ideas.
- I. Walking Guide/Membership Drive
 - a. 36 signups, moving very slowly. On the back burner.

Office Reports—see handouts

- A. Office Management – Caroline
 - a. See attached report.
- B. NERF (Neighborhood Economic Recovery Fund) Grant— Caroline
 - a. See attached report.

Announcements – Brandi

- A. Announcements—none.
- B. Calendar of Awesomeness—Chamber highlights from December/January – what have we done that we should add to the Calendar of Awesomeness?
 - a. Suzie: Getting market open under the bridge. Talk to the vendors—they are very excited to have that. We grumble at folks not being at work (Adobe, Google), but it makes their drive available for the Market and a draw that asks those folks to walk around Fremont because your car is well taken care of.
- C. Chamber of Commerce Award Ideas from December/January – who do we want to nominate for a CoC Award and why?
 - a. Brandi: Tableau: the ordered 450? meals from all local restaurants including Fremont and gave to Fremont. Have also done gift cards. They were also the biggest donor for Center of the Universe Small Business Relief Fund.

- b. Suzie: Been very good neighbors since 5 guys rented a building. Seattle grows its own and Fremont does too. Once they land, we treat them well and want them to do well here.
- A. Other
- a. Brandi: Welcome to Steve Mitchell at PCC.
 - b. Steve: Great to be back in Fremont. Was here from 1994 to 2003 through move to new location. Longtime Seattleite. Still helping out at Greenlake Aurora. Exciting to see everyone and be on the board.
 - c. Brandi: Bradley here from Brooks—what’s going on over there?
 - d. Bradley: I was recently promoted to Assistant Trailhead Sales and Community Manager. We operate on a local level, events at store, upcoming St Patrick’s 5-10k. If there is an opportunity to partner with other stores, we want to incorporate the community. We partnered with Theo’s for Valentine’s Day.
 - e. Brandi: You can add your events to our calendar, and we can promote in Blast and on social when we get more staffing for that.
 - f. Suzie: Phil might have ideas for a run, there used to be one. As they talk about how the city will handle runs, it has to get in that play. I’ll be sure to get him to reach out.
 - g. Bradley: will put his email in the chat—we’d be interested.
 - h. Brandi: Natalie—welcome! Thank you for joining us! Carrie speaks very highly of you, happy to have you.
 - i. Suzie: B. F. Day is the longest continually operating public school in Seattle.
 - j. Natalie: Small celebration and then big party as restrictions ease.
 - k. Brandi: we brought up traffic danger at intersection at coffee with Dan. Definitely a concern.
 - l. Natalie: Thank you for supporting us.
 - m. Leo: Staircase at N 40th, last week we planted 100 bulbs. In a couple of weeks, they should be blooming.
 - n. NERF Grant: Caroline described the grant: Neighborhood Economic Relief Fund managed by Office of Economic Development. Ultimately it is Federal Relief funds. We got \$100,000, the most we could get. More than half is for rejuvenating the art in Fremont.
 - o. Leo: Troll’s Knoll: New art. When the city bought the land around the Troll, they originally focused on both sides but ran out of funds and only focused on the west side. Neighbors are working to activate the east side and fill it with art, like the Moss Turtle, an archway, signage, etc. to encourage folks to walk through there. Help activate and have another great piece of art.
 - p. Brandi: Hysterical Markers—in the past, the PCC managed the HM in front of Starbucks. Is that something you are able to continue doing? Paul does quite a few of them.
 - q. Steve: yes. Thought it was in front of the Rocket but can check the Starbucks one.
 - r. Brandi: Paul, can you do the dinosaur one?
 - s. Caroline: reminder to vote on awards.
 - t. Suzie: Strongly believe in awards. It’s meaningful! This can be something they did that’s good for their business. We’re recognizing that it’s good for the community.
 - u. Brandi: Last year we also gave out about 10 certificates. If there’s a conflict, we can give one an award and one a cert
 - v. Suzie: Fremont Rotary for their public Safety meetings.

Adjourn—Brandi

Meeting ended at 9:54am.

Minutes submitted by Caroline Sherman

Meeting Chat:

[8:40 AM] Brandi Gaines

Please mute if you aren't talking. Thank you.

[8:46 AM] Brandi Gaines

[We R Seattle](#)

We R Seattle

We are bringing people together throughout Seattle— from border to border — to set priorities and identify potential solutions that will address today’s crises. We are engaging people at all levels...

[8:55 AM] Leo Griffin (Guest)

Brandi - at Troll's Knoll we have been getting dumped stolen mail.

[9:00 AM] Ken Saunderson

Did we record our meeting with SDoT? If so, can we send that to Sara?

[9:06 AM] Zisko, Natalie L

130 years in May

heart 1

[9:24 AM] Brandi Gaines

Businesses may also sign up for the Retail Theft Program

<https://www.seattle.gov/police/community-policing/retail-theft> Please reach out to Off.

Dornay zsold.dornay@seattle.gov to have a business sign up for the Retail Theft Program.

Retail Theft - Police | seattle.gov

Learn more about The Retail Theft program

[9:24 AM] Brandi Gaines

To schedule Crime Prevention services in the North Precinct:

Please email Sergeant Welte - Martin.Welte@seattle.gov

[9:24 AM] Brandi Gaines

Personal Safety Program! Here is the link for that program -

<https://www.seattle.gov/police/crime-prevention/personal-safety-training>

Joe: Joseph Elenbaas

Crime Prevention Coordinator

Seattle Police Department | East Precinct

P: 206-684-5758
E: joseph.elenbaas@seattle.gov

Jennifer: Jennifer Danner
Crime Prevention Coordinator
Seattle Police Department | Southwest Precinct
P: 206-256-6820
E: jennifer.danner@seattle.gov

Personal Safety Training - Police | seattle.gov
Sign Up for a Personal Safety Training Class

[9:24 AM] Brandi Gaines
[West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions \(participate.online\)](#)

[9:30 AM] Ken Saunderson
Happy to participate in the program meeting. Thanks!

[9:30 AM] Nelson, Sara
Sorry, I have to jump into another meeting now. Reach out to my office anytime: 206.684-8809.
We're in the office everyday and actually answer the phone!
like 2

[9:30 AM] Brandi Gaines
Route 40 Project: [Route 40 - Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridor - Transportation | seattle.gov](#)
Route 40 - Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridor - Transportation | seattle.gov
Making bus trips faster, more reliable, and improving safety

[9:43 AM] Ken Saunderson
Seattle Times Editorial today on impact of crime on insurance rates for small businesses and the need for the Council to investigate. <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/city-must-investigate-whether-crime-is-impacting-small-business-insurance-rates/>
City must investigate whether crime is impacting small business insurance rates
Anecdotal evidence suggests small business insurance is sharply rising in Seattle. City Hall needs to determine whether that's caused by increased street crime and develop a plan to tackle it.

[9:44 AM] Bradley Leatherbarrow
bradley.leatherbarrow@brooksrunning.com