



**Board Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2022
Teleconference via Microsoft Teams**

Attendance

Present: Brandi Gaines, Jamie Hoffman, Phil Megenhardt, Sean Erhardt, Steve Mitchell, Ken Saunderson

Absent: Paul Robinson, Suzie Burke, Amina Leighton, Michael Wanaka, Ali Weber

Staff: Pete Hanning, Caroline Sherman

Guests: Eva Otto, InfinitiRED; Jessica Vets, Edward Jones; Elizabeth Emerick, BECU; Stephanie Secord, Alan Lord, Ray Edralin, all from Seattle Public Utilities.

Call to Order – Brandi

The meeting was called to order by Brandi at 8:35am

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. Introductions

B. President's Message: Hope everyone has a great holiday!

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

Guests: Stephanie Secord, Alan Lord and Ray Eladrain. Seattle Public Utilities presenting the next phase of the Ship Canal Water Quality Project at Stone Way.

Stephanie: Program Mgr for Storage Tunnel. Alan PM for ?

Presented slide show. Focus on Wallingford in January. MudHoney tunnel boring machine likely to get to Fremont in January. Wallingford in spring. Ballard conveyance tunnel for pumping station. 8' diameter tunnels. Conveyance pipe installation will affect Stone Way. Conveyance pipe on Stone is between 35th & 34th for a full year!

Existing connections are under Stone, that's why it's the least disruptive plan.

Neighborhood mitigation? Wood screen wall with murals. Bike lane will become 2-way. Working with Office of arts & culture. Hired 3 muralists to paint murals. Wall on S edge of 35th St. Will open up roads as soon as possible.

On 34th, there's no turn lane going onto Woodlawn. Will they be adding turn lanes? Answer: working with SDOT and they conditionally approved transportation plan in early 2022. Woodland Park Ave where it connects to 34th. Traffic on Stone will be routed over there. Going right or left there will be dealt with. Having those discussions to see if more will be done there.

Share mitigation traffic control plan? Answer: they're not very user friendly. Will be putting together user friendly versions. Had to wait to ensure contractor is using SPU's plan. Traffic detours, etc are dictated by SDOT. If there are concerns, we have to take them to SDOT. Please let us know. Flaggers? We can pass on community concerns.

Brandi: There needs to be communication with the community before final decisions are made on the traffic mitigation plan is approved. Stone way closed at 34th, so go to 35th. Have signage at end of the bridge routing traffic to 35th or 36th. Lots of signage and being clear very early in the commute. Busses, Connector, Google bus, etc and will take up a lot of room.

Pete: Request flaggers or traffic officers—a real pinch point.

Alan: glad to hear this. Will share with SDOT.

Stephanie: New all way stop at Woodland Park and 35th. Not want to push all traffic too far away. Trying to keep traffic local. Trying to balance.

Brandi: Even diverting to Troll Ave, which has a 4-way stop. Having that detour info before Troll Ave light would be good.

Steve? When will closure start? Early January. Issuing NTP (notice to proceed) in early January.

Brandi: how is it being communicated to the community? Door to door, bi-weekly updates on closures. Go out in December with flyers to businesses to let them know they're here. Cards that businesses can share.

Brandi: Covering Eve to Varsity Inn? Will do broader than we did before.

Pete: Fremont Ave to Wallingford on the East. And where Bridge Way connects: Yes, we can expand it.

Pete: What's happening with MudHoney when it finishes? Could we display MudHoney in an artistic way when it's done?

It could be reused again, so not sure. It belongs to the contractor.

Caroline: Will you share communication materials?

Yes, will share materials with us. List-serve will have updated info on the project.

<https://spushipcanal.participate.online/>

Working with Metro on bus re-routes: #62 on Stone to 35th and #32. Working with evo construction project as well. Happy to come back and give another presentation.

Brandi: please share traffic plan. We should have another conversation in March for updates.

Office Reports—Pete & Caroline

A. Executive Director – Pete (see attached report)

a. Public Safety & Community Engagement

- i. Lots of criminal activity. 12 businesses that have been broken into in the last 2 months. Been speaking with businesses & landlords. Should convene community meeting. Have a roundtable & invite captain from N precinct. Create a better communication network between our businesses. Can't hire our way out of this, so need to work together. It's top of mind. Will continue to reach out to those businesses.
- ii. Jamie: Fremont Vintage Mall, since 2008. No breakins, but 3 in the last 3 months. They don't get much, but shatter windows and cases. Last two times, police responded quickly. Found car. Went to guy's house, but couldn't arrest him. Jamie has put bars and gates on windows and doors. They are cashless. Half a dozen businesses: 7:45am! Around 3am when the bars close. Slow in morning. Bold. Internal theft in the store—camera system with monitors at entrances which helped. They know they can do it and they come back and do it again.
- iii. Pete: this is the value the Chamber brings. Putting renewed effort into it. January—convene the roundtable. December too tough.
- iv. Jessica: Portland doing a lot around crime mitigation & homelessness. Could we reach out to them and see if we can get ideas from them.
- v. Eva: Business owners would love to learn how to protect their shop if they could.
- vi. Pete: years ago did crime prevention program. Didn't require any fee. In the am so retail could get there.
- vii. Jamie: They found the get-away guy—they got keys. They are trying to get the keys to get to the big pay day. Guy wasn't prosecuted, as he wasn't in the store. Those guys were homeless.
- viii. Ken: In addition to SPD, we also had retailers talk about what they were doing. Michael had success with his deterrent methods. Provide resources, call list for help, CPCoordinators to come and help. Eva & Jamie, would businesses be interested in throwing money at a Block Watch program?
- ix. Jamie: he walked around and asked business several years ago, but there was no interest. What if we got cameras and hired someone to monitor the cameras?
- x. Brandi: giant cranes with cameras & blue flashing lights that would capture a lot of businesses. Signage: Fremont's watching you!
- xi. Pete: January, putting together a brick-and-mortar roundtable—Jamie will you help? How do we message that out to the neighborhood. Security: get very little bang for your buck.
- xii. Jamie: can set outdoor cameras with timers.

xiii. Caroline: Steve can you talk about security?

1. Steve: We are open longer, more people wandering in to create chaos. \$1.2 on security. We've gone from having people from mid-afternoon to closing, or all day, to doing patrols: Ballard to Fremont, Green Lake Village & Aurora. We had no choice due to lack of SPD response. Lots of pushback from customers. Long haul. Not about the shoplifting. More about safety for staff & customers.

b. Programs & Committees—Marketing & Membership

- i. Marketing & membership have met in the last couple of months. Thank you for that. Would like to get other committees up and running in 2023. Public Safety would be a good one.
- ii. Marketing doing great work on what does our WG really look like? Reached out to Google & Geocaching to get their professional input. Pushing our timelines to before Fremont Fair.
- iii. Membership: Trick-or-Treating was really helpful for leads. It's a positive, proactive way that we can show we're supporting our businesses. Has been following up with ToT non-members. Holiday campaign & rocket lighting. It looks awesome! Pete was in Swel and the staff couldn't stop talking about how great it was and brought attention to that corner. Pete working that corridor.
- iv. Jamie: we can use security issue as an incentive, too.

B. Office Management – Caroline (see attached report)

- a. Arts Fund: Do we want to skip the set your watch back signs and direct the funds to lighting the Rocket. There are NERF funds in the rocket project that could be for the lights.
- b. Brandi: Rocket lights are on remotes that Brandi has.
- c. Membership
- d. Jag Chamber Migration
- e. NERF Grant

Marketing Report – Ken

Couldn't make too many of the meetings due to commitments. Pete: finishing up NERF grant stuff. A lot of work at January retreat to make Fremont top of mind. Transition to Jag Chamber, we want to make sure our calendar is really promoting events. Pointing all of our arrows to the calendar. Have an ad campaign on quarterly basis. Thankful that the committee is back up and running.

Brandi: Very exciting to have King5 feature the market. Post stuff on your social media! Shameless self promotion in a guerilla way! Owes us holiday postcards this week.

Finance & Events

- A. Trick or Treat – Pete
- B. Rocket Lighting – Phil, Brandi, Pete
- C. Fremont for the Holidays - Pete

Committee Reports and New Business

- A. Transportation/SDOT Route 40 – Pete

- B. Marketing Committee – Brandi
- C. Membership Committee -- Sean
- D. Board Retreat/Elections—Brandi

Announcements – Paul

- A. Announcements
 - a. BECU 5th year anniversary party. Same day as Fremont Holiday Party. Start with us and then go to Fremont party!
 - b. Liz will be there from 2-5pm with swag, etc. Fun time to mingle and network. Thanks again for letting me come to the meetings. I appreciate how informative they are. It's really interesting to hear what's happening. Thank you for including me.
 - c. Sean: closed for a month in December. January sale in both gyms. Facelift after 11 years. Pre-Xmas will be a slow time.
 - d. Eva: no big announcements. Holiday Party on 15th, 5-8pm. Might have a DJ, disco ball!
- B. Brandi: Pete will run for District 6 Councilmember. As our ED, determining if we feel there would be a conflict ED & campaign through June when his contract is up for renewal.
 - a. Jessica: having been in that position and having had two positions. I ran 5 farmers markets while being the full-time ED. And Pete is super motivated, so not concerned. As long as we have good guidelines around where Pete is representing FC & where he's representing himself.
 - b. Jamie: I'm all for it personally. With membership—would there be potential conflict around that? He's well known in Fremont. Would it negatively affect people around joining?
 - c. Ken: No issue with it. Pete's smart enough to run the dividing line. Be mindful of apparent potential conflicts of interest. Be transparent.
 - d. Steve: Be very transparent with guidelines. Clear with expectations and conflicts.
 - e. Jessica: Need a strong succession plan.
 - f. Brandi: We need to be non-partisan. District 6 is district 6 and we have to give all candidates for the position equal time. We're here to provide businesses and community information to make a choice. Anytime anyone wants to do a walkabout or meet the Chamber, we have to do that.
 - g. Caroline: have someone designated to keep an eye on things.
 - h. Brandi: ExecBoard will monitor that. Brandi has had tough conversations with Pete around failure to meet his FC obligations, then contract is terminated. So far, he's done a great job wearing Chamber Hat & N Precinct Advisory Council. He's kept those separate. As well as Pelington Properties, Route40, etc. I have all the faith in him doing his job well. Exciting to have someone in our corner who knows Fremont so well.
 - i. Jamie: Would we post anything about it?
 - j. Brandi: Not necessary to put anything up there.
 - k. Jamie: Consider putting out a letter to our membership that explains what's happening.
 - l. Caroline: Not in the Blast?
 - m. Brandi: No, it will look like we are marketing him.
 - n. Ken: Dan is very visible in the community. When we have an opportunity to reinforce to Dan that we are transparent and not endorsing anyone. Dan, Alex, Sarah—they are our councilmembers right now.

- o. Route 40—looking to get a larger coalition together to get a larger campaign out to the public to put pressure on SDOT. Need a write-in campaign.
- p. Ken: Forums for candidates. Shipyard in June invite all candidates running in our district. It's a platform to inform our membership about who's running with what platforms.
- q. Jessica: Worth noting board members' personal views vs representation of Chamber. Need to be very neutral. As individuals, be loud be proud.
- r. Brandi: do we have a consensus of support for Pete and his dual-candidacy/ED work. YES. No abstentions. We have a majority of the membership present: six members.
- C. Retreat at end of January, in person only at Adobe. In place of our regular meeting date: Jan 25, noon-4pm.
- D. Calendar of Awesomeness—Chamber highlights – what have we accomplished that we want to highlight on our website?
- E. Chamber of Commerce Award Ideas – who do we want to nominate for a CoC Award and why?
 - a. Brandi & Phil for the Rocket. Suzanna & Sarah who designed them.
 - b. Ken: Ryan for market under bridge
 - c. Eva: Pumpkin head on Lenin.
 - d. Norma: NERF mural work.
- D. Other

Adjourn—Brandi

Meeting ended at 10:00am

Minutes submitted by Caroline Sherman