



**Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2024
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Attendance

Present: Brandi Gaines, Phil Megenhardt (briefly), Nicole Hill, Adam Gardner, Ken Saunderson, Jessica Vets

Absent: Paul Robinson, Eva Otto, Suzie Burke, Sean Erhardt, Jamie Hoffman, Amina Kapusuzoglu

Staff: Pete Hanning, Caroline Sherman

Call to Order – Brandi

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

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 Remarks: No remarks

Guests: Simone Marrion, Solid Ground

Brief history of Solid Ground:

Started to help with homes. Fremont Public Association. Helping with food. Fremont was one of the poorest neighborhoods in Seattle at the time. Was formed to help. Food bank, clothing bank, jobs bank and resource center. Formation in 1971.

2 years later banded together to form Fremont Public Association. Housed in a church. Many churches helped out. Then we moved to Wallingford, because Fremont became prosperous. 2006 changed name to Solid Ground to reflect fact that we had become very large.

Had Frank Chopp, former speaker of the house as Executive Director. Helped get folks to join our organization to combat poverty. 2002 launched anti-racism program. All staff trained on anti-racism and focus on social justice lens which changed focus of work. Invited poor people onto the board to advise. 30% of the board are living in poverty, community members ad hoc. Community Action council. Solid Ground delivers services to End Poverty Now. Domestic Violence services, 500 units of housing at Sand Point Magnusen. 250 youth living there with their families. Last farm in City of Seattle—fresh food for food banks. Coordinate all food banks in Seattle. Anti-poverty legislative action group Poverty Action. Payday Lending. Solid Ground led legislative ending lending with 1,000% interest. Transportation provided for low income, disabled, poor to doctors, shopping and social visits. LIHI is a spinoff of Solid Ground along with many others.

Turning 50 years old since 1971. Helped over 1M people. Invites all members of Fremont Chamber. I invite you to purchase a table at our Gala on May 8th at the new venue at the Convention Center. Hear from members of the community. Great band. Jim Char, Pearl Django with partner Tim Lerch. Playing great jazz. Garfield Jazz band for after party. Invite you all to come.

August 23rd working on developing Community Volunteer Day. Cleanup in Fremont, because that is where we started.

Brandi: first recycling center in the State and possibly in the Country. Armin Stepania.

Jessica: Fremont had first curbside recycling because of Armin.

Brandi: Send us info on these events and we'll disseminate it to our businesses. I invited LIHI to apply for an Adobe Grant.

Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes: While all present were in favor, Pete pointed out that we did not have a quorum of 50% of the board present. We will approve the March minutes at the May meeting.

Committee Reports and New Business

- A. (10 mins) Membership: Jessica & Caroline
 - a. Jessica: Just spoke with Holly from Experience Momentum. Interested in joining the board. Wants to be on a Welcome Committee, falling somewhere in between programs and membership. No wallflowers at meetings, recruiting younger people, and to get employees on committees and health and wellness.
 - b. Pete reviewed the 30/60/90, Opportunities & Targets tabs on the Budget vs Actuals.
 - c. Wants to put more energy around Less Talk More Walk. Consider every other month a Walkabout and meetings in between to discuss strategies.
 - d. Jessica suggested adding columns in the spreadsheets for board members to add notes. [Done.]
 - e. Does our membership management program provide Cash flow by month?
 - f. Caroline: Not specifically, but I am easily able to generate it through other means.
- B. (5 mins) Programs: Pete
 - a. Headshot Happy Hour. \$45/member, \$50/non-member. At Mischief.
 - b. Photography by Rowland Photography.
 - c. Brandi: Board Members please show up for better photos of all of us for the website.
- C. (5 mins) Marketing & Communications: Ken
 - a. Wrapping up HM.
 - b. Share HM spec sheet with everyone.
 - c. Concierge Event. Not likely that Concierges will come out to Fremont. Consider for 2025 or this fall.
 - d. I recommend adding funding for attending the Concierge Event to the budget for next year.
 - e. Simone: Rapunzel—consider for an ad for the Headshot event?
- D. (5 mins) Finance, Caroline
 - a. Reviewed budget vs actuals.
 - b. Programs & Sponsorship. Awards event was a success—we had higher attendance and higher attendee income (\$830) than expected, but without sponsorship, we lost money. Our catering costs were \$952.
 - c. Jessica will sponsor Women In Business Event
- E. (5 mins) Awards: Pete
 - a. Went really well. Need to reduce number of certificates.
 - b. Brandi: It was great having multiple presenters.
 - c. Caroline shared image of her 10-Year award.
- F. (5 mins) Government Affairs: Suzie
 - a. Not discussed.
- G. (5 mins) Lenin Cleaning: Brandi & Paul
 - a. Not discussed.
- H. (5 mins) Major Event: Phil
 - a. Working well with Howard Wright. Buying Fremont Brewery is a good thing. Allows growth and is a good thing for Fremont.
 - b. Pete would like to talk offline about the relationship.

Office Reports—Pete

1) Executive Director – Pete

- a. Public Safety
 - i. Not a lot of chatter this month on Public Safety, a good thing. Will continue to monitor.
- b. Transportation/SDOT Route 40
 - i. A contract has been signed with the contractor. Not much we can do. One compromise would be to limit bus lanes M-F during business hours vs 24 hours. Will be losing parking in Fremont, and they are going to extend a few areas with paid parking.
 - ii. Fremont has the most expensive parking in the City. The City has 3 time periods: morning, peak day, evening. By segment Fremont is either the only one at the top or shared with just a few communities. Around \$5 is the highest price. Pricing is based on counts on turnover and availability. Fremont is dense and residential; there just isn't a lot of parking and it's utilized heavily. And we haven't pushed back as much.
 - iii. Mary Catherine, parking for SDOT, lives in Fremont. We don't want to see less parking. We want SDOT to consider lowering the rate and extending it west along 36th. Something for us to talk about. We've done what we could.
 - iv. Brandi: lowering parking fees would be a huge win of adding value for the businesses. It's really sad that Route 40 is going forward without any concern for the community. Is there a plan from the strategist Natalie Quick? Will there be a communication plan on what to be aware of?
 - v. Pete: We can write an op-ed. Concern from City Hall is that our coalition might oppose transportation levy up for vote this year. Pete thinks that would be foolish and detrimental to our name, time and money. Suzie's friend Fay Garenaue put several \$1m against the Move Levy and it still passed.
 - vi. Pete: Membership & Parking: Garrett & Asko Processing. Manufacturing right in Fremont for 57 years. 3 shifts for 24 hours 365 days a year. Their issues: angled parking on the south side of 35th between Phinney & Evanston. Could we get it striped for more condensed parking. Pete reached out to Mary Catherine and cc'd Garrett about this. Maximize and protect the parking we do have.
- c. Membership Recruitment
 - i. We now have set the number of employees to determine where you land on membership. Continually getting folks into the right space by showing the value.
 - ii. Brandi: Great example of Chamber at work for you.
 - iii. Pete: Top goal for renewal has been Salesforce. Has a half hour meeting with president of Tableau silo on May 10th. Agenda/ask is clear. Get them to renew. Figure out who the payment person is. Have someone participate at the board level for better working relationship and Salesforce can get more value.
 - iv. Pete: Howard Wright's family owns the Space Needle. Tavolata, Frelard Pizza and Ethan Stowell restaurants. Consider Cosmos for Fremont Brewing, Frelard, and Tavolata. Or even Kenmore Air!
 - v. Caroline: Don't want to poach SLU members, do we?
 - vi. Pete: Westlake activated. Shepherd Family Chiro rejoined.
- d. Board Recruitment
 - i. Great to get Holly from Experience Momentum on the board. She'll be a great board member. Need someone from hospitality. If any of you have a relationship with someone in hospitality, please let Pete know.
 - ii. Brandi: Consider Figurehead Brewing, Wet Clay Café.
 - iii. Pete: mid-tier management is the sweet spot for recruiting board members.
 - iv. Brandi: Acquisition from Hospitality Group. Maybe someone there.

- v. Pete: Jamie & Amina have barely responded or participated at all.
- vi. Brandi: Need to discuss folks not showing up at next meeting.
- vii. Brandi: Amina has not responded. At this point her interest is not in the Fremont Chamber. It's in the bylaws and she needs to be removed. Same thing for Jamie. Want to make room for board members that are going to participate. New people are great. Need people to refresh and bring new ideas.

2) Office Manager – Caroline

- a. Arts Fund
 - i. Welcome to Fremont Signs finally installed!
- b. Hysterical Markers
 - i. Discussed earlier in meeting. See Admin report for details.
- c. Additional Program & Membership Stats
 - i. See Admin report for details.

Announcements

A. Announcements

- a. Nicole: has posted Headshot Event internally.
- b. Their runs are posted on our calendar.
- c. HM Ad—work with Nicole, as Michael is out for 2 weeks.
- d. Construction is supposed to be wrapping up!
- e. Caroline: Consider having a block party.
- f. Pete: Wastewater newsletter comes out every month. Linked in a recent Blast about it.
 - a. 15th & Ballard bridge repaved. Over schedule, over budget. We're in for a couple of years of tough times. Can't do much about it.
- g. Brandi: SPU should pay for the party. We plan it. Ribbon Cutting!
- h. Pete will reach out to SPU communications folks. We need a date.

B. Calendar of Awesomeness—Chamber highlights – what have we accomplished that we want to highlight on our website?

C. Chamber of Commerce Award Ideas – who do we want to nominate for a CoC Award and why?

D. Other

- a. Next Board meeting will be in-person. Pete will not be present at May meeting.

Adjourn—Brandi

Brandi adjourned the meeting at 9:51am.

Meeting Chat:

8:24 AM Meeting started

[8:27] Simone Marrion (External) has temporarily joined the chat.

[8:29 AM] Pete Hanning has temporarily joined the chat.

[8:31 AM] Adam Gardner (Unverified) has temporarily joined the chat.

[8:33 AM] Phil (Unverified) has temporarily joined the chat.

[8:38 AM] Ken Saunderson (Unverified) has temporarily joined the chat.

[8:38 AM] Phil (Unverified) no longer has access to the chat.

Adam Gardner (Unverified)8:39 AM

I apologize I have to leave at 9.30a...

Simone Marrion (External)8:50 AM
Information about the Solid Ground 50th Gala
[50th Anniversary Gala - Solid Ground \(solid-ground.org\)](https://www.solid-ground.org)

[Event Details Join Solid Ground for our 50th Anniversary Gala, Wednesday, May 8, 5:30pm at SUMMIT* \(900 Pine Street, Seattle, WA 98101\) to celebrate a half century of progress toward solving poverty...](#)

www.solid-ground.org

Simone Marrion (External)8:52 AM
Please let me know if your company is interested in sending volunteers to the Community Volunteer Day on August 23rd. Fremont will be one of the areas for volunteers to help clean up! contact me at simonem@solid-ground.org

Link Budget vs Actual - 3-31-24.xlsx by Caroline Sherman, 9:04 AM
[Budget vs Actual - 3-31-24.xlsx](#)

Simone Marrion (External)9:05 AM
I will send out an email to my group and see if HR would willing to put the information our on internal news For Headshot event. Will you be using the Neon Princess [Rapunzel] on the bridge for an ad?

Jessica Vets 9:08 AM
Caroline - where are the spec for HM ads? Can you send to me please.

Caroline Sherman 9:09 AM
<https://fremont.com/promote-your-business/#hysterical>

Ken Saunderson (Unverified) 9:14 AM
I need to run to another meeting. I'll keep you posted on the June program after I meet with NSIA and the Propeller Club. May need to come up with an option on the membership program. PACFISH is not going to work for a venue this year.

Simone Marrion (External) 9:18 AM
The Awards were a great event well done!
Sorry - have to pop off - good day all

Jessica Vets (Unverified) 9:25 AM
Sorry - have to pop off - good day all

Adam Gardner (Unverified)9:28 AM
sorry I have to run! thanks all...

Simone Marrion (External)9:33 AM
I have to hop off for another meeting Thank you for inviting me. Staying on helped me understand more about what you do as Chamber! Thank you!

Meeting ended: at 9:51 AM after 1 hour 27 minutes 49 seconds 9:51 AM