



Board Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2024
At Adobe

Attendance

Board Present In-person: Brandi Gaines, Phil Megenhardt, Suzie Burke, Nicole Hill, Paul Robinson

Board Present Virtually: Eva Otto, Ken Saunderson, Jessica Vets

Board Absent: Sean Erhardt, Adam Gardner, Jamie Hoffman

Office Team Present: Caroline Sherman

Office Team Absent: Pete Hanning

Call to Order – Brandi

The meeting was called to order by Brandi at 8:43am

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: Welcome, good to see everyone.

Approval of March & April Board Meeting Minutes: Suzie moved to approve, and Phil seconded. APPROVED.

Vote on Board of Director Member: Amina is stepping down. Bylaws require a 2/3rds vote of the board, unless person voluntarily resigns, as Amina has.

Committee Reports and New Business

A. (5 mins) Programs: Eva

- a. June program. Working on program similar to Feb Health & Wellness event. Pete will reach out to Michael. It may not be coming together. Might have to cancel. July: Olympics Theme at Fremont Brewery with games with gold, silver, bronze. With Happy Hour. Market to companies in the area. August: boat tour similar to last year. Need to talk about September—open. Brandi suggested doing something with CEOs or Women in Leadership/CEOs.
- b. Brandi: I recall the panel way back that you were on. Women in Leadership, borrowing on ideas from Seattle Metro.
- c. Eva: Do we want to pull just from Fremont, or take a step outside: SLU/Wallingford/Ballard?
- d. Suzie: September & October: political year. Unusual statewide jobs up for grabs. State Superintendent of Schools, Insurance Commissioner. Insurance costs going way up. Part of it is the way the commissioner has not done some things done in other states, like pools for folks within their peer groups. Also Lands Commissioner. Lands Commissioner controls who can use Lake Union for what. \$\$ go to help build schools. Like Waterway 23.
- e. Phil: Are we not doing the Candidate Forum?
- f. Suzie: No because Doug Dixon died and it was his thing.
- g. Phil: Political, maritime and they bring in membership. Programs you are suggesting are good. Picnic in the Park? September might be good timing.
- h. Brandi: Partner with Ballard for audience and getting candidates to come.
- i. Brandi: Just educating folks on the positions, even if we can't get candidates to attend. Consider coordinating with City Council members to come and talk about it.

- j. Eva: Will follow up with Suzie. Consider September, before the primary. Likes coordinating with other chambers and FNC mailing list and maybe through the schools.
 - k. Suzie: Need to bring business people in, because they need to understand how these positions affect them.
- B. (5 mins) Finance, Phil
- a. Increasing revenue, membership, sponsorship. We were pretty bold on all that stuff. Membership is meeting expectations. Events are starting to fire up. But without a June program, how will we make that up?
 - b. Discussion of Program ideas and Eva's responsibilities as Programs Chair
 - i. Consider a cocktail meetup, maybe at the Elks?
 - ii. Eva: Am I supposed to plan one event a month?
 - iii. Brandi: NO! Get the ideas and connections, Office Staff can then make it happen. Health & Wellness? Is it happening or not? Where are we with it?
 - iv. Happy Hour could be the Wed before the Fair.
 - c. Phil: Looking at June. We can't have another year to maintain the expenses that we have. We will need to make decisions next month. We're doing great, but we need to be really thoughtful about our future. Shout out to Eva: Program Attendance for April and May is great!
- C. (5 mins) Membership: Jessica & Caroline
- a. Suzie: RHAWA joined due to our Route 40 work. Invite to Candidate event. Consider adding Phil Suetens to Space Station. He owns Olson Energy land.
 - b. Phil: Renewals are gold. The cold sale is harder.
 - c. Caroline: Please review tabs in Dashboard spreadsheet.
- D. (5 mins) Marketing & Communications: Ken
- a. No marketing meetings last month. Caroline will report on the Hysterical Markers.
 - b. Ken nominates Jon Hegeman for an award for his work on the Hysterical Markers.
- E. (5 mins) Government Affairs: Suzie
- a. Suzie: One win on bus stop move to Lenin Plaza. But we can't stop there. The City is in real trouble down in Pioneer Square and they are fighting back. Columbia City fighting back. We need to talk to Sarah Nelson, etc and have them bring up that this isn't working and they need to step in before it's pushed through. This summer, they are going to be paving the Ballard Bridge, up 15th. Will send all the traffic all to us. We need to tune up to more congestion and how to work with it.
 - b. Brandi: still have construction on 36th & Stone Way.
 - c. Suzie: 2nd & 36th be grateful that the original drawings showed it IN 36th St. As they are sending you around it, it was actually going to be IN the street. Thing at Stone is not over. Then another whole year on Stone that is drainage stuff. The point is they keep this going because they are always working 2-3 years out.
 - d. SPU is not renewing Suzie's role on the Advisory Committee/Strategic Planning Committee. Advise on strategic planning. How do we get someone from Fremont to do it? Great position for contacts that help us. Phil expressed interest.
 - e. Brandi: was on Solid Waste Committee.
 - f. Suzie: Creeks and Drainage. Joy Hollingsworth, City Council person.
 - g. Ken: Sarah Nelson at NSIA meeting at June. We should get folks to participate. Online meeting. Dan Strauss participates. Suzie to get folks & Ken will get Ballard folks. 4th Tues, 9am. Add to Blast & Board.
- F. (5 mins) Major Events: Phil
- a. Fremont Fair coming up on June 21-23rd. New Poster! Paul is on poster duty.
 - b. Paul: Lots of positive comments.
 - c. Suzie: Oldest poster of Fair on sale at Frameup Studios.

- d. Phil: New President at FAC, approved having parade info on poster. Website will reflect that. Over 300 vendors. New Plant Based party. Vendor mix at shows. Three new vegan-based events started in Seattle. Sarah Armstrong/Bold Hat has done this before for other businesses. There is a need in the market for it. PCC has to close during the Fair, so working with them on this. For 2025 Fair, PCC will be more involved. Making it an expo for food, food sampling, educational awareness, back to our hippy roots. Segmenting how the market looks. Livbud will participate. Half a block on Evanston. Ten spots this time. Vision is to go around the corner and be the first whole block.
 - e. Suzie: Bouncy House/Toys by Suzie's end. Rotary Club is very small. Send volunteers our way. Plus table for police with badges for kids. Put two women there last year that was just awesome. Other side: vets from VFW in Ballard. Little kids drawings, etc. At the Point.
 - f. Composition of fair is great. Music is great.
 - g. Oktoberfest registration, 25 breweries out of 30 needed are already signed up. Met Howard Wright III at sports event. We've been asking Fremont Brewing to be mainstage sponsor. Howard will help!
 - h. \$19.95 to participate (??). There's a demand there. Not a big demand for sponsorship.
- (5 mins) New Event: Fall/Holiday: Brandi
- a. Need to kick this off, activate boarded up windows, tie the "wine" event with the Holiday kickoff.
 - b. U District Street Fair had good numbers. As far as that corner at 34th & Fremont it's rough.

Office Reports—Pete

- 1) Office Manager – Caroline
 - a. Arts Fund—we still have just over \$1,000 in the Fund, but it's not growing. What to do with it?
 - b. Hysterical Markers
 - i. Any connections for Red Hook?
 - ii. Consider removing any HM that aren't ready. Work with Phil.
 - iii. Get HM Adopters/Captains in place for the Fair to keep the HM stocked and clean.
 - iv. Distribute Rack Cards to members.
 - c. Additional Program & Membership Stats—see report online.

Announcements

- A. Announcements
 - a. None
- B. Calendar of Awesomeness—Chamber highlights – what have we accomplished that we want to highlight on our website?
 - a. none
- C. Chamber of Commerce Award Ideas – who do we want to nominate for a CoC Award and why?
 - a. Suzie: Keith Ward at SPU for finishing the Tunnel project next year. It's going to be done!
 - b. Ken: nominates Jon Hegeman for an award for his work on the Hysterical Markers.
 - c. Ken: Consider moving Awards Ceremony to January.
 - d. Add your jobs/volunteer jobs to website! Volunteer job position for Fremont Chamber Board on website!
 - e. [Post Board Meeting: Caroline nominates Garrett Riley, of Spittin' Llama for completing so many NERF projects under budget. Not always on time, but definitely under budget!]
- D. Other
 - a. Next Board is on Teams, Wed, June 26th, 8:35am

Adjourn—Brandi

Brandi adjourned the meeting at 9:56am.