



Board Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024
On Teams

Attendance

Board Present: Brandi Gaines, Phil Megenhardt, Suzie Burke, Nicole Hill, Eva Otto, Ken Saunderson, Jessica Vets

Board Absent: Paul Robinson, Sean Erhardt, Adam Gardner, Jamie Hoffman

Office Team Present: Pete Hanning, Caroline Sherman

Volunteer Intern: Eli Schaufenbuel, through August 20th

Call to Order – Brandi

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

- 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: Solstice has come and gone. Hope everyone got to be out and at the Fair. Volunteering with Rotary was a lot of fun, seeing all the little kids in the morning. Very crowded on Saturday. We have a couple of guests.

Guests: Jay (Steve) Mayo, resident of Seattle for 30 years. Live and work in First Hill area in healthcare. Supporter of North End businesses. Frequenter of Fremont. Cyclist—car free, commutes by bike. Bike loops around lake. Member of Cascade Bicycle Club, BikeWorks, Recycled Cycles. Likes transportation work. Here to learn more about Fremont Chamber.

Eli: Just moved to Seattle last summer. Wanting to learn more about business. Student at St. Olaf, political science major.

Introductions all around.

Approval of May Board Meeting Minutes: Suzie moved to approve, and Ken seconded. APPROVED.

Committee Reports and New Business

- A. (5 mins) Programs: Eva
 - a. Creating quality programs where we make money. No program for July. August Happy Hour cross-chamber. Candidate Forum for September, getting connections from Suzie. October Leadership Panel, with Michelle (women in leadership panel.) November Public Safety Breakfast, December Annual Meeting/Holiday Party, January Awards. May also have some meetups.
 - b. Suzie: Tanya Woo, appointed to City Council at Large. Encouraged to appoint her by Sarah Nelson. She'll have to run again. Represents our area. Consider buying drinks for everyone and helping her out.
 - c. Pete: Been messaging with her. Official walk-through of Fremont. Will look to get her in for July.
 - d. Ken: Talk to Eugene Wasserman and NSIA co-sponsor.

- e. Brandi: Do it any day of the week.
 - f. Eva: Council Candidate for KC Metro
- B. (5 mins) Major Events: Phil
- a. Fremont has a really big job. We start summer for Seattle. We did that this weekend. Couldn't move in the crowd for 5 hours! 75-100k people to our small community. Planning & Partnerships, with FAC and Parade. Marketing machine and art. All the agencies: police, traffic, N Precinct—35 officers on site over the weekend. Training for active shooter, etc., keeping us really safe. One guy was freaking out and an ambulance took him away. Fire department was bored—a good thing.
 - b. Over 330 vendors. The Fair was very full. Food vendors reporting a lot of success. Merchandise vendors give mixed reports.
 - c. Suzie: Where was the first aid station? It was right outside Free Range Cycles. Was it on the map? The police did recruitment which was really fun. They said the Fair was doing its best ever.
 - d. Pete: Fremont Dock. A huge shout out to them for plumbing and power, access to parking lots, neighborhood relations, always texting and staying in communication.
 - e. Suzie: Glad to do it.
 - f. Community itself, Saturn building, 45 tenants and buildings. Slow down major manufacturing. Service industry at Saturn, massage appointments on Friday.
 - g. Fire side: Bold Hat serves on a couple of committees, N Chapter, A Seattle Special Events Team, Minute Man committee. Fire Marshall didn't come, Captain came and had us change some things. This took us off our game to be in compliance.
 - h. Fremont Arts Council/Parade. Phil was supposed to show up at noon but was delayed by Fire Marshall. Managed the ending of the parade. The crowd was thick and fantastic. Very compliant, when we had to part the seas and move some floats and park them where they come on to 35th St/Swell. Maque and Phil switched personalities. Phil was loosey goosey and Maque was saying everyone must follow the rules. Relationship with FAC very different this year. We were able to market the parade and fair. The parade looked really good. Important that it ends at the fairgrounds in the future.
 - i. Suzie: Parade group was really good. But subsequent to the Parade everything shut down, because everyone was live streaming, and everything slowed down for about 4 hours. There is a way to put an antenna up to put up a broader Wi-Fi area. We could try it out for Oktoberfest for the Fair. I'm willing to work with that.
 - j. Pete: COW, cellular on wheels. We've done it in the past. Police, fire and others were all in communication during this "blackout".
 - k. Suzie is willing to look into doing something permanently. Didn't have a lot of ATMs. Folks don't want to use the ATM.
 - l. Pete: Good point. I would like us to have a further discussion for next year about how we really lean into the word "commerce" at the fair and acknowledge the role that FCC plays in putting this on, so the 300+ vendors can be successful. We are missing a big opportunity to invite these folks to participate in programming next year. Event after the fair in early July and invite the vendors.
- C. (5 mins) Government Affairs: Suzie
- a. A great parade is great for Gov't Affairs. If anyone ever needs to know why we need good relations, Suzie made a little phone call. She was two people away from getting it resolved. Pete working on Route 40. Suzie working on yearlong construction and she's trying to get full width of the street back. Beyond that we'll be continuing to have problems with Stone around surface connections. Drainage is much improved. Not sure she was able to get Phil to replace Suzie on the Public Utilities Committee.
- D. (5 mins) Membership: Jessica & Caroline

- a. Jessica: Needs to get a co-chair for membership. Her world is getting busier, CFP exam next year. Will work on replacing herself on the committee.
- b. Pete: Caroline and I will work with you. Thank you for all the work you do.
- E. (5 mins) New Event: Fall/Holiday: Brandi
 - a. Brandi: Nothing to report. Ken and Phil and Brandi will have to work on that.
- F. (10 mins) Finance, Phil
 - a. Fremont Fair—made \$1k more than last year because we had more vendors. Beer gardens and vendors = revenue. Over 300 vendors added up quick. Beer gardens almost made \$8k. That says a lot. Vendors were happy. Some internal things we could tweak. New thing: DJ tower by the Rocket. Kept the street going well. Triangle businesses invested to make that happen. Beer gardens at typical levels. Good reminder of what Fremont Fair can do. Brings attention to our neighborhood. Fun time and financially looking good.
 - b. Ken: Commend Phil again on the Fair. Always blown away driving through on Monday after the fair how clean it is! That is very hard to do. Great job!
 - c. Suzie: My guys were out early hitting our spot. That garbage bunch you had in the parking lot by Add-a-Ball had the right attitude. Overall, it was amazing.
 - d. Pete: It's down to a science.
 - e. Caroline: loved the mobile hand washing stations.

Office Reports—Pete

- 1) Executive Director – Pete
 - a. Membership
 - i. Pete: We had a membership meeting yesterday. In conjunction with the budget, when we look at the levers that bring in money, Membership is the one that brings in the most for a healthy budget. Caroline and I meeting weekly to focus on that. If every board member could help bring a few lapsed member to become members, and focus on our targets.
 - ii. Suzie: Silicon Canal, PATH is coming in, very techy. We'll involve them. Someone else is coming in, very big, can't say who. When they get in, we'll make use of them. Lease not quite signed yet. Looking very good.
 - iii. Pete: Return to office, Google & Salesforce, their Fremont offices are at some of their highest RTO. Regardless of whether they are more longstanding or whatever, it's a great story to tell. More businesses want to come to Fremont.
 - iv. Jessica: It's because of Milstead Coffee!
 - v. Suzie: That plays into this new company that is coming. Their other choice was not as close to Fremont. They are choosing us over that.
 - vi. Brandi: RTO businesses also have mandates.
 - b. Programs:
 - i. Headshot Happy Hour program was successful—20 people showed up. Retail shoplifting program. Working on Health and Wellness meetup.
 - c. Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness:
 - i. Working with Experience Momentum on Emergency Preparedness, so they can do a meeting with their team members. Would like to include that as a resource for our members.
 - ii. Brandi: Can plug that in any time. Great idea.
 - d. Board Recruitment
 - i. Board recruitment—actively working on that. Want to make sure we have a healthy board. Hearing dire things from other non-profits, so very thankful for our active board.
 - ii. GeekWire spoke for 20 minutes and spoke a lot about Fremont and the Fremont Chamber.

- iii. Met with Yanna at Fremont Brewing and plans on inviting her to the board. GeekWire is such a resource, but they hit above their weight—they have great connections. Doing videos on the tech in Spokane. She’s interested in doing a video series on Fremont.
- iv. Brandi: Let us know how Adobe can participate.
- e. Social Media/Newsletter
 - i. Blast: Please send topics to Pete that you want in the newsletter. Ken’s been helpful about organization of the newsletter. Social media 3-4x/week highlighting Fremont.
 - ii. Brandi: Have your members ask for an ad in the Blast.
 - iii. Pete: New Brook’s “Let’s Run” tag line will be featured
 - iv. Send out GeekWire video to board!
 - v. Jessica: Fremont Brewing beer garden will stay the same configuration as Solstice.
 - vi. Suzie: We received an award last Friday from Silence-Heart-Nest/Sri Chinmoy. They are calling Fremont a Peace Blossom place. Consider putting on a HM.
- f. Intern
 - i. Pete: 3Create joined the Chamber and connected us with Eli!
 - ii. Working on Walkabouts. Eli comes to us from 3Create. They are looking for work. They put themselves out there on our walkabouts. That is what our mission is, supporting businesses & folks looking for work!

2) Office Manager – Caroline—see report online.

- a. Arts Fund
- b. Hysterical Markers
- c. Creative District—Add Brandi to this meeting.
- d. Lynxsom update. Send new owner Alex’s details to Brandi.
- e. Additional Program & Membership Stats—see report online.
- f. Magnolia event was in Blast. One member attended. Board didn’t know about it. Need to let us know via email.
- g. Calendars—need to put committee meetings on web calendar.
 - i. Can I import my calendar into website?
 - ii. When people renew we invite them to join committees
 - iii. Share language on invitations to members and board with Brandi
 - iv. Jessica: Mid-level businesses can get mid-level employees to participate.

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?
 - b. Food Boogie Babes—big picture!
 - c. Kelly Lyles—Put her on the map and on things to brag about and on the poster. Everywhere we brag, put in Art Cars!
 - d. Phil: Heavy Art Car info on digital side.
 - e. Suzie: Kelly is working with new restaurants. Kelly arranges for food for art car participants who are artists with no money. She probably has restaurants to brag about.
 - f. Eli: We want to ask businesses around the Parade what we could do for them next year. Could we release a survey asking how it works for them.
 - a. Phil: they’ll let us know if we need to change anything.
 - b. Eli: If we sent out a survey, would it be redundant?

- c. Phil: think about an economic impact survey. WA Festival of Events has a survey we could implement.
 - g. Pete: Award suggestion for Sri Chinmoy folks.
 - h. Caroline: Garrett at Spittin' Llama, Yvonne San Luis, HM graphic design
 - i. Ken: Bob Kettle, Council member, Harbor Safety report is favorable for getting more resources for Harbor. Huge friend of the maritime manufacturing industry and represents Fremont! Former Navy!
- D. Other
- a. Next Board meeting is on Teams, Wed, July 31st, 8:35am

Adjourn—Brandi

Brandi adjourned the meeting at 10:00am.

Meeting Chat:

Brandi Gaines (she/her) 9:40 AM

Caroline Sherman, please send out the information for the July 11th meeting; I'd like to participate

J. Steve Mayo (Unverified)9:56 AM

clean streets KUDOs to the VENDORS who proactively chose COMPOSTABLE and RECYCLING and nearly eliminated trash in many areas. They **can** impact this greatly, and more next time.

Eli Schaufenbuel (External)9:57 AM

Definitely! i saw a lot of vendors using smaller or reusable packaging which greatly reduced waste

 1 Like reaction.


J. Steve Mayo (Unverified)9:57 AM

(as time is limited) KUDOS to FCC (y'all) for a great mtg, great board design (3 troupes x 3 years) ensuring continuity! = VITAL

 1 Heart reaction.


J. Steve Mayo (Unverified)9:58 AM

IDEA: Approach GOOGLE for Wi-Fi in FF area. GoogleFi wide-area coverage w/ extenders. Promote to vendors, and skip boosting cell access as \$50K people is just too many cells. Wi-Fi can handle a lot.

 3 Like reactions.

J. Steve Mayo (Unverified)10:01 AM

I've two questions which I'll email to Brandi, if that's best.

 1 Like reaction.