
The FREMONT Neighborhood Council

Incorporated 1980

Fall 2003 Newsletter

WHO WE ARE

The FNC is a chartered organization representing the residents of Fremont [8th Ave NW to Stone Way N; 50th St to the Canal]. All residents are eligible to join, and members are eligible to serve on the board.

VOLUNTEERS

Fremont is a vibrant community and a great place to live and work. As residents of Fremont, we all need to get involved to make our neighborhood an even better place. Fremont Neighborhood Council, made up of volunteer residents, works on initiatives and projects that help improve the community. FNC has lots of opportunities for you to help, by joining one of our committees (Land Use, Guerrilla Gardening, Community Center, Parks/Open Space, Communication, Bicycle Routes, Public Safety, Affordable Housing). To join please contact the president at the number listed below:

President – Benjamin Grossman 545-9083
Vice President - George Heideman; 782-8779
Secretary – Norma Jones
Treasurer – April Thanos 675-8761

DUES

The FNC is a membership organization, with annual dues for the calendar year payable in January. Your membership is important; it will support the work of the FNC in building a better Fremont. If you didn't pay your dues this past January, you are not currently a member of the FNC. Please take a moment to fill in the membership form and send it in, along with a check for your annual dues.

FREMONT GUERRILLA GARDENING

Help to beautify Fremont by planting bulbs or cleaning up trash on **Saturday, October 4th between 9 AM and noon. (Rain date: Saturday, October 11th).** Meet at the Troll (900 block of N. 36th St.) to pick up bulbs or trash bags for use throughout Fremont. If possible, bring your own spade. Donations of bulbs appreciated. Thank you to Fremont Gardens and Piriformis for their generous donations of plants and to Stone Way Hardware for providing mulch for the Spring Guerrilla Gardening Event.

RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONES (RPZ)

A parking study by SeaDOT has found that a large region of lower Fremont qualifies to apply as an RPZ (residential parking zone). That area ranges from N 35th St.. to N 39th St. and from Albion Place to 2nd Ave. NW. (excluding commercial areas). A committee of residents and business representatives will negotiate parking plans to meet the needs of the area, and then the proposal will be presented to the residents of the area in a petition. 60% of the residents must sign the petition in order for the RPZ to be implemented. The city has RPZ information on its website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rpzprogram.htm>

If you are interested in being on the Fremont RPZ committee contact Julia DeBroux at 545-4483 or juliadebroux@hotmail.com. Also, **this issue will be discussed at the September 22nd Fremont Neighborhood Council meeting.** If you have any questions or concerns, please attend this meeting.

FREMONT PARKS

Parks in Fremont are precious and an integral part of our community. We are eagerly awaiting the development of two new parks in Fremont!

Fremont Library Park: The property next to the library was purchased many years ago for a future park and is finally ready. The design has been finished, the funding is available and the City plans to begin work this fall. Soon we will all have another vibrant public place to enjoy. To find out more about this park contact Chip Nevins at chipnevins.wa@netzero.net

Fremont Peak Park: The recent acquisition of the Fremont Peak Park in upper Fremont has the neighborhood excited about the great opportunities for this incredible space. The park design is mostly complete. The next challenge is to find the funds to develop the park. For more information, check the web site at www.Fremontpeakpark.org

A COMMUNITY CENTER FOR FREMONT

It's fun to know that Fremont is the center of the universe. However, what we really need is a community center at the center of Fremont. It would be a place for community meetings, children's activities, possibly a city service center, etc.

In 1998 the community developed a comprehensive plan which is a part of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan. That plan includes a community center, but the center will not become a reality unless we make it happen.

In 1998 an extensive search for a site arrived at a location on Fremont Avenue next to B.F. Day School. The school and playgrounds would be part of the plan and the center would include a meeting room available to the school.

Now we need a few people to carry on the study of building and construction. Pete Henning, owner of the Red Door Ale House has offered help and Jack Tomkinson, who made Fremont Peak Park possible, has offered to help with grant writing for funding a professional consultant. A community center will be built if you have an interest in planning our future.

FREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Generally the fourth Monday of each month, 7:00-9:00 PM at History House, 790 N 34th St.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2003:

September 22

October 27

November 24

December 15

FREMONT INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

The FNC web site is at <http://www.scn.org/fnc>. It includes a map of the area, meeting minutes, newsletter back issues, a community calendar and links to other Fremont sites. Soon we will also be able to provide you with updates sent via email.

The Fremont Neighborhood Council

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BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE FREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Membership in the FNC is open to residents of Fremont [between 8th Ave NW & Stone Way N, and from the Canal to 50th St]. Anyone else is welcome to become a supporter, with the same benefits as members but no voting power. Benefits include newsletters, notices, a role in the Annual General Meeting and financial decisions, pride and power. Memberships are counted on an annual basis, with dues being paid every year in January. There is one vote per membership. Please take a moment to fill out this form and mail your dues today.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

I am interested in helping out with:
 Traffic Parks Bicycling Housing Safety
 Membership Guerrilla Gardening other _____

Mailing List Promise:
The FNC will **not** sell or distribute your name/address/phone/email. This info will be used by the FNC only to inform you about Fremont.

I am available to volunteer generally in
 Evenings Mornings Afternoons
 Weekends on-line

Annual Dues: \$12/Individual \$20/Household \$50/FreeAngel \$7/Senior-Low Income [Checks only please, no cash or money orders] Please make checks payable to FNC and mail to the return address on address panel.

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LAND USE

Notwithstanding the recession, Fremont continues to experience significant new projects. Numerous "unit lot subdivisions" take single family houses in the multifamily zones (L-1, L-2, and L-3), and break the lot into 3 or 4 separate lots for townhouses. It can be difficult to respond to these proposals since the City considers the subdivision and the building project separately. Land use chair Toby Thaler (Fremont@louploup.net) is available to help neighbors comment on these and other types of projects.

The largest currently pending land use project is the proposed QFC grocery store at the former Safeway site, 40th and Stone Way. A committee of concerned neighbors has worked hard to make sure the City is aware of the problems with an overly-large store shoe-horned onto a site adjacent to a row of single family houses. A decision is expected any day. An appeal may follow.

FREMONT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Fremont Neighborhood Plan is supposed to guide City decisions regarding transportation, land use and other issues. www.cityofseattle.net/npo/plans/fremont/

The priority item for implementation after the plan was approved by the City Council in 1999 was dealing with traffic and related issues in downtown Fremont. As a result of planning money from the city, Fremont Works Ink, the plan implementation committee, was able to develop the "Hefron Plan". Key elements include new signals at Evanston and 35th (in front of Lenin) and Fremont and 35th, and continuation of the bike route configuration (parking on the north side only) on 34th west of Evanston. The city is currently trying to raise money to implement this project.

One problem from the FNC's point of view is the impact of the two new signals on residential blocks on 35th Street east of Fremont. The city and Fremont Works have committed to addressing these concerns with traffic calming, but specific measures - and money to pay for them - have yet to be worked out.

SOUND MIND AND BODY V FREMONT SUNDAY MARKET LAWSUIT DISMISSED

On September 5, King County Superior Court. Judge Canova dismissed the Sound Mind and Body lawsuit against the Fremont Sunday Market.

One result of the lawsuit is that the City Council is now considering changes to the land use code to specifically provide for "intermittent" street uses such as the Sunday Market. If you wish to receive information on that effort, contact City Council Land Use Committee staff member, Jill Berkey, jill.berkey@Seattle.Gov