

**Pike Place Market Constituency
General Assembly Meeting Minutes
September 15th, 2026**

Attendees:

In Person:

Chris Weaver
Skip Knox
Alex Rasmussen
Chris Scott
Adora Caelah Lopez
Gina Karaba
Gordon Padelford
Jeff Barnes
Cory Hutton
Graham Marmion
Christine Vaughan
Jonathan Berner
Janis Jordan
Julie Beabout
Xanna Vegsundvaag
Heather Pihl
Elaine Spencer
Brandon der Blatter
Steve Dolan
Davin Stedman
Jon Cracolici

Online:

Joan Paulson
Irene Wall
Erik Pihl
Bob Messina

Madison Douglas
Buster Simpson
Rachel Ligtenberg
Emma McAuliffe-Mulanix
Haley Land
Leanne
Karen Berner
Brent Bahl
Devin McComb
Kyle Kinsey
Rei Hanscomb

Opening & Public Comment

Jonathan Berner called the Pike Place Constituency General Assembly meeting to order on September 15, 2026, reviewing procedural details, voting eligibility, and agenda modifications. The agenda and August minutes were approved without objection.

Chris Scott emphasized the importance of inclusivity for locals who support the market and cautioned against labeling engaged community members as outsiders. Irene Wall requested discussion time for her substitute declaration on street management, which was scheduled for the 7 p.m. segment alongside Graham Marmion's declaration.

Guest Speaker: Gordon Padelford of Seattle Streets Alliance

At 6:45 p.m., special guest Gordon Padelford of the Seattle Streets Alliance presented the Pike Place Street Uses Vision. He highlighted strong public support for the Night Lights Market pilot, noting increased visitation and commercial sales from 2024 to 2025, despite some 2026 fluctuations. Gordon acknowledged challenges related to parking preferences and proposed enhancing the 600-car garage, improving loading zones, and expanding delivery options. He advocated for year-round pedestrian-friendly improvements, including extended market hours, winter seating, and expanded seasonal events, emphasizing the market's value beyond parking.

During Q&A, Gina Karaba questioned the sales data and expressed concerns about delivery reliance and year-round street closures, favoring seasonal or conditional closures. Gordon clarified pilot timelines and cited surveys showing majority public support for reduced car traffic. Kyle Kinsey supported hybrid seasonal closures, while Elaine Spencer stressed the importance of legacy merchants and noted a recent visitation decline. Gordon attributed fluctuations partly to events like the FIFA World Cup and underscored the opportunity presented by Seattle's growing downtown population.

Haley Land criticized summer street closures for altering the market's character and questioned impacts on legacy businesses. Gordon refuted claims of harm to farmers and distinguished the pilot from unrelated events. Skip Knox successfully moved to extend discussion by 10 minutes.

Joan Paulson expressed concern that street closures primarily benefit PDA parking revenue rather than broader market interests. Gordon suggested better utilization of the garage for short-term visits. Chris Scott challenged visitation decline claims and noted neighborhood markets commonly close streets. Gordon emphasized representing public opinion and balancing diverse interests.

Christine Vaughan questioned survey framing and the pressure on the PDA to change street management. She highlighted the importance of legacy grocery businesses and called for mutual dialogue rather than fixed solutions. Gordon described the Alliance's role as representing an underheard public viewpoint and welcomed further discussion on seasonal closures and legacy shopper concerns.

Christine's motion to extend the meeting until 7:30 p.m. passed. Rei Hanscomb of Truffle Queen raised concerns about lack of signage directing customers during street closures and urged lifting winter weekday closures to maintain access. Gordon invited further dialogue on signage and acknowledged diverse customer comfort levels with shared street use.

Steve Dolan, a downtown resident, expressed appreciation for fewer cars but concern for pedestrian safety, noting many customers arrive without cars. Gordon cited a survey showing 85.5% of customers walk, bike, or use transit. Janis Jordan proposed considering child-friendliness in market events; Gordon acknowledged the importance and interest in future inclusion.

Jeff Barnes thanked DeLaurenti for refreshments and noted longstanding efforts to provide market treats at meetings. Alex Rasmussen, a longtime market community member, urged Gordon to listen closely to diverse community feedback. Gordon welcomed continued dialogue and apologized if previously perceived as disrespectful.

Julia Beabout, a downtown resident, emphasized the need for customer research and segmentation, noting price and hours as primary visit barriers rather than transportation. Skip Knox expressed skepticism about surveys and concern over urban development threatening the market's character. Gordon affirmed his commitment to the market and its people.

Heather Pihl raised pedestrian hostility concerns and asked for safety improvement suggestions. Gordon proposed clearer communication and possible bollard systems to reduce confusion and tensions. Cory Hutton noted improved accessibility during the pilot and inquired about community feedback on mobility; Gordon acknowledged anecdotal positive reports but no formal data.

Declaration Discussion

Jonathan apologized to Gordon for earlier time constraints and welcomed his continued participation. After a brief break, the meeting focused on two competing street management declarations: Graham Marmion's, developed with constituency input and Operations Committee review, and Irene Wall's, emphasizing inclusivity and broader stakeholder communication.

Bob Messina questioned ambiguous language about constituency authority in Graham's declaration. Gina Karaba supported most points but advocated for flexible, PDA- or Historical Market Commission-managed street closures without cumbersome SDOT approval. Christine Vaughan highlighted the need to accommodate customer access and respect Historical Commission authority, suggesting joint presentations with PDA and Commission members.

Discussions clarified that constituency representation is consultative during proposal development, with PDA and Historical Commission determining working group membership. Jeff Barnes noted public agencies' authority but criticized poor communication and misinformation, emphasizing pedestrian-focused guidelines.

Janis Jordan recommended including PDA-assigned tasks and recognizing

the Constituency's dual role as forum and advocacy body, especially regarding Historical Commission oversight. Haley Land opposed single-person representation as contradictory to grassroots values. Cory Hutton called for formal, ongoing Constituency involvement in policy discussions.

Heather Pihl stressed the public and transparent nature of the Historical Commission process and urged public presentation of proposals. Brandon der Blatter clarified SDOT's ultimate street authority and encouraged the Constituency to assert its independent values boldly.

The floor opened for additional comments, with Jon Cracolici, Historical Commission chair, attending to listen. Heather Pihl and Skip Knox emphasized procedural decorum and directing questions through the chair.

Alex Rasmussen cautioned against controlling PDA representatives' statements, advocating resolution through dialogue. Jeff Barnes raised transparency concerns about the working group's public meeting status. Skip Knox noted longstanding debates over PDA representation.

Graham Marmion thanked participants, invited further input via Jonathan Berner within nine days, and agreed to collaborate with Irene Wall on a redraft. Jonathan facilitated their coordination.

Public Comment & Closing

Public comment included Alex Rasmussen praising meeting management; Chris Scott noting evolving market dynamics and the need for innovation; Janis Jordan announcing newsletter summaries and volunteer opportunities; Brandon der Blatter updating on bollard discussions with SDOT; Irene Wall highlighting accessibility challenges for disabled users on cobblestone streets; Skip Knox encouraging youth leadership; Steve Dolan noting bike parking needs; Jeff Barnes mentioning fundraising input and pedestrian wayfinding gaps; and Christine Vaughan announcing an October 8 community budget meeting.

Gina Karaba discussed neighborhood farmers markets' impact on attendance, infrastructure limitations, and urged council reconsideration of market proliferation, noting street closures occur only one day weekly.

With no objections, Jonathan Berner adjourned the meeting.