

01/19/21 GA

- Call to order – 6:05
- Attendance – Nick Setten, Laurie Johnson, David Ghodoussi, David Reddish (resident), Bob Messina, Gordie McIntyre, Joan Paulson, mark Brady, Colleen Bowman
  - Absent – Jerry Baroh, Zak Gebridikian, Shari Curiel, Lisa Connolley, Ali Mowry
- Public Comment –
  - Bob Messina comments on a discussion by the Constituency about formulating questions to send to the Office of the Waterfront in lieu of having a rep at a meeting. Bob wonders if anything materialized or came of this. Laurie clarifies if a meeting of the Waterfront had been held already, to which Bob declines. Laurie confirms that she sent a list of questions drafted by Lisa Connolley to our board members and offers to send it to Bob as well.
- Approval of Minutes – **need to push to ExCom due to lack of quorum.**
- Committee Reports
  - Programs - Gordie reports that Farm Programs team has a new manager named Ivy Fox, and suggests we send her a letter welcoming her. She replaces Zack, managing the farm tables team, and organizing the satellite markets around the city, and CSA farm box program. Laurie offers to send her a letter welcoming her and inviting her to be a member. Additionally, David reports that the Marketing Team reports their 3<sup>rd</sup>-highest month in 2020, with nearly 150k page views, 74k less page views than 2019. Reviews the top-viewed pages. Outdoor dining blog was a big hit. On social media (facebook & Instagram), 71 market biz were highlighted in December.
  - FAM – committee voted to extend 50% off rent, 20% off cam (possibly electricity as well) in Feb & March. (Resolution 21-01) 95% of market biz had taken advantage of this deal initially. There are about 20 businesses that are not keeping up with rent. This deal is on the consent agenda for tomorrow. Residentil is at a bit over 10% vacancy – mostly to do with turning units around. Also put on consent agenda a plan to bring in a new business (hat shop) helmed by a woman who was the apprentice of a man who ran a hat shop in the Market in the 1980s. Business would be called Eclipse Hats. David suggests that when new merchants come into the Market we should include information about this in our newsletter. Next steps is working with Turnbull, working with PDA for rates, then FAM, then vote at full council, then MHC for final stamp of approval. Joan provides some history about the historical precedent of millinery in the Market.
- Old Business
  - No word from boardmember Mowry yet, Laurie will follow up with Jerry to see if there has been any communication with her. David clarifies that if the chair makes efforts to contact to no avail, the Bylaws stipulate the process for removal. David suggests this be brought up at our next ExCom.
  - Board review of bylaws
    - Gordie presents a list of possible bylaw suggestions/corrections from Nick and himself. David and Laurie had expressed interest in participating on a committee level but did not add any comments over the last few months. **Gordie suggests**

**we take time at the ExCom to go through one or two potential changes per meeting.**

- Report on elections process
  - Joan sent along a few emails regarding the process and plans to send a complete message out to the board before the next ExCom. She strongly suggests reading the background information for context. **She would like feedback and to have things tidied up at ExCom meetings so that we can present it more broadly at future GA.** She requests that Nick resends Meeting Minutes from August GA.
- Review of questions regarding the Waterfront.
  - Lisa prepared a list of questions
  - Laurie has questions regarding time frame and process
  - Bob points out that the Office of the Waterfront's position regarding having us send them questions is making us jump through a lot of unnecessary hoops and we should be clear that we expect responses in a timely fashion.
  - **Return to these and finalize a list of questions at the ExCom meeting at the end of the month.**
- Review of Public Comment to the LPB on 1/20.
  - Joan wrote a letter on behalf of the Hahn, and Lisa had accepted the responsibility of speaking on behalf of the Constituency. Save the Market Entrance had a goal of getting in over 100 written comments, and Joan suggests that even if late sending in a letter of support will still have that letter entered into the public record. Gordie says that he was intending to write a letter, but wanted to include some history about the cherry trees – Laurie had also reached out to the city's arborist who explained that those cherry trees were NOT gifted by the Japanese government, and are past their prime and need to be replaced. Gordie comments that they still bloom every spring (so not past their prime). David relays a story that the trees were given to the city by the Japanese government in the 1970's, but cannot confirm the validity of this story. Laurie says that based on the report of the city arborist, this story is likely false. Joan says that the arborist came into his position in the 1990s, and says that they were donated by the Japanese in the same tradition as the trees at UW.
- New Business
  - David asks to make sure that we have all of our receipts turned in from 2020. Nick says that he recalls this being hashed out in November/December 2020.
    - Gordie says that starting in January for this year, he has purchased an invoice book for the office and suggests that any time an expense is approved, it be submitted to Jay at PDA using one of our invoices from our invoice book. One example is Invoice #1 which is for new ink cartridges for the printer in the office. He asks if Laurie got paid for last year. David asks that invoices be sent to the Constituency office to get routed through our new invoice book. Laurie clarifies that as it currently stands with billing, she emails Jay, cc'ing Jerry.
  - Podcast - Joan discusses her notes from her comments on the Podcast episode on which she was featured in October, and has a list of 3 suggestions for ways to better

communication in the future. She suggests that Jerry Antush put information about how to connect with the Constituency in his introductions to episodes featuring our organization.

- Laurie asks how many podcast episodes we funded this year (Joan answers 4) and suggests that we discuss topics and how to proceed/identify focus for different episodes. Joan clarifies that her goal was 'history'. David says this is a good opportunity for us to highlight different aspects of the market (eg Paul Dorpat/residents, mail service, etc and tie it in to our community). Nick encourages maintaining a theme of public engagement in whatever interviews we do with the Podcast.
- Mark suggests that on the day of meetings we re-send zoom information/meeting information. David agrees and suggests a 24-hour notice. Laurie clarifies that both our meeting times and the zoom information is the same from month to month. Laurie agrees to send out a reminder 24-48 hours in advance.
- Public Comment
  - David Reddish, resident, comments that he has been trying to figure out what the PDA is doing to help out market residents. He has worked for market businesses, but is trying to figure out what is going on with residential rent assistance. He has been pointed to city grants, but wants to know if there has been any discussion around rent assistance for tenants.
    - David Ghodoussi comments that the Foundation has helped with financial assistance for a handful of folks. David R has already spoken extensively with Stella Jones. David G explains that the PDA is in charge of rents and encourages David R to sit in on PDA council Meetings. Nick supplies David R with meeting information for PDA ExCom on Jan 20, and suggests he also attend PDA Full Council on Jan 28. Laurie comments that there is an eviction moratorium, and a new stimulus program that has a lot of rental assistance and mortgage relief and suggests David R email CM Andrew Lewis directly as well. Colleen Bowman also suggests a more robust list of residential financial opportunities be sent out to Market Tenants.
    - *Edited 2/1/21 with notes from Joan Paulson – ed* – Joan also stated to call the mayor's office at 206-684-4000 and request an updated list of organizations that can provide rental assistance.
- Adjourn 7:19