

October 24, 2024

Constituency Executive Committee draft minutes

6:20 p.m.

Attendance: Bob Braun, Emily Pike, Heather Pihl, Davin Stedman, Liz Hughes, Babak Ziraknejad, Golnaz Mohammadi, Chris Scott, Christine Vaughan, Alex Rasmussen, John Kelso.

Bob Braun called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

Agenda: Approved by acclamation.

Approval of minutes: June 27, 2019; July 25, 2019; August 29, 2019; September 26, 2024. Bob explained that the minutes from 2019 were approved subject to revision. Minutes approved by acclamation.

Public comment: There were no comments from the public.

Old Business

-Budget: Babak said the budget is all updated, so now it just needs to be presented to the PDA Council in November. Babak will accompany Bruce to present the budget. Bob suggested sending the budget details out to the membership. Chris explained that it's handled in the Executive Committee. The next step will be the presentation at the PDA Council.

New business: None.

PDA Committee reports: Christine said there's been no FAM meeting since the last General Assembly meeting. The next FAM meeting will be Nov. 12, at 4:30 p.m.

Public comment: Heather reminded everyone that the Friends of the Market meeting will be November 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 at Folio. She encouraged attendance. There will be a panel discussion of farmers from the Market, moderated by Michele Catalano, former Farm Program staffer, and the event will be catered by Pink Door.

Set agenda for November 19 General Assembly meeting

Christine said if there is an announcement on October 30 about the new director, an invitation might be issued to the director to attend the meeting. There was a discussion about asking the new PDA Council member, Gabriel Grant, to attend. Alex asked if the correct dates for November would be November 19 and 21. Bob confirmed the dates.

For the November 19 agenda:

- Budget
- Invitation to new ED
- New PDA Council member Gabriel Grant
- Amy - discuss Daystall rule changes
- PDA Master Plan - discuss with Constituency

Christine said the PDA retreat has been postponed until February to give the PDA Council and

the staff time to organize the retreat and set the agenda.

Figgy Pudding update: Alex said he just heard back from Pamela and will follow up on the next step. Joined the team so far: Alex, Nick, Emily, Jonathan, Christine, Davin, Heather and Erik. Christine suggested reaching out to Kenneth Telesco. Emily asked if more should be added to the group and if they should be Constituency members. Alex said he thought it should be kept under the umbrella of the Constituency. He wasn't sure about the number. It was agreed that the more, the merrier. Alex said he will start an email thread and will take suggestions for carols. Heather suggested having lyric sheets available would be helpful. There was a discussion about having guitar accompaniment. Alex said he could do that.

Bob asked Christine for an update on Victor Steinbrueck Park. Christine said the Market Historical Commission tabled the vote to reopen the park without the totem poles reinstalled. In 2019, the Commission required that the totem poles be reinstalled before the park reopens. Last December the Parks Department applied to remove the totem poles permanently. The MHC denied the application. Parks appealed, and the appeal was dismissed. There has been erosion of public trust and a lot of foot dragging in the restoration of the totem poles. There isn't a lot of confidence that Parks will restore and reinstall the totem poles without an ironclad guarantee. The MHC has asked for a detailed restoration plan. There has been an outline and a conservator hired, but the plan is not detailed about what might need to be done and who will do it. The matter will be taken up again on Nov. 13. Heather clarified that the MHC didn't take action on the tabled application from December. She added that the current outline for the restoration involves engaging a structural engineer after the restoration is complete, which leaves an opportunity for Parks to say they can't be reinstalled. A structural engineer needs to be engaged at the beginning of the process. Christine agreed, and said it puts the cart before the horse if the restoration is done first. She said the MHC needs to be assured also that if the poles can't be restored, they will be replicated exactly and reinstalled on the plinths. There is movement in that direction, but the MHC has asked for more details and more assurance before the park is reopened. As pointed out by the public, it's now October, nearly November, and the Overlook Walk provides more area for the public to circulate, so there's really no need for the park to reopen right now, and the Commission wants to keep leverage of the park being closed until they are sure the poles will be restored and returned or else replicated and returned, as was required back in 2019.

Bob invited John Kelso, who joined the meeting online, to introduce himself. He was unable or chose not to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.