

**Pike Place Market Constituency
General Assembly Meeting Minutes
May 19th, 2026**

Attendance:

In person:

Bob Braun
Davin Stedman
Austin Godwin
Emily Pike
Graham Marmion
Christine Vaughn
Chris Scott
Katie Trent
Janis Jordan
Cory Hutton
Chris Weaver
Janis Jordan
Xanna Vegsundvaag

Online:

Emma Mulanix
Heather Pihl
Alex Rasmussen
Maggie Haines
Adora Rabbit

Opening

Bob Braun opened the Pike Place Market General Assembly meeting on May 19, 2026, reviewing procedural details including Robert's Rules of Order, voting eligibility, and access to meeting materials. With no objections, the agenda was adopted. Minutes from the previous meeting will be presented at the next session. Janis Jordan reminded members to renew their memberships by June 30th to maintain voting rights for the upcoming election, explaining the process and directing inquiries to Emma Mulanix. Emma apologized for processing delays and proposed a mailbox for drop-offs, supported by Braun and Marmion, alongside plans for updated office signage and brochures. Chris Scott raised signage concerns, which Janis noted are pending approval.

Guest Speaker: Katie Trent

No member comments on non-agenda items were received. Janis introduced guest speaker Katie Trent from the Preservation and Development Authority (PDA), who presented on FIFA World Cup planning and visitor experience initiatives. Seattle will host six FIFA games from June 15 to July 6, 2026, primarily at Lumen Field, attracting an international audience. Planned activities include watch parties, continuous game broadcasts, and a “Welcoming the World Night Market” on June 18 featuring craftspeople, farmers, and vendors to activate the market.

Emily Pike inquired about vendor participation compared to the winter night market; Katie noted a slightly larger footprint with an emphasis on outdoor street presence. Beautification efforts include arcade repainting and table repairs, with interior painting this year and outdoor painting planned next year. A new ambassador program with 10 ambassadors will launch this weekend, alongside a pending application for a security, public safety, and information tent offering first aid, water, shaded rest, and family reunification space.

Summer staffing will increase for facilities maintenance, waste collection, public safety, and parking management, especially at First and Pike during street closures. A coordinated approach addresses delivery access and emergency repairs, informed by Flower Festival lessons.

Katie introduced the "off-Pike delivery" pilot service, funded by Seattle Department of Transportation FIFA funds, allowing merchants to receive packages at Seattle Messenger Cooperative on Western Avenue for holding or hand delivery. The service began Sunday and runs through September 13th, handling packages up to 50-60 pounds but not pallets. It is open to all historic district businesses, including non-PDA tenants, requiring sign-up. Awareness remains low despite outreach; Emily Pike offered volunteer support and suggested PDA engagement committee collaboration.

Austin Godwin proposed constituency participation with a booth at upcoming events for outreach, referencing successful Flower Festival efforts. Katie clarified she is not responsible for planning but will connect marketing staff with the engagement committee. Efforts to attract local visitors focus on encouraging grocery and farm produce businesses to stay open later, ideally until 6 p.m., with some already committed to extended hours. The "Sip and Savor" initiative, pending PDA Council approval, will allow 24 restaurants and bars to serve outdoor alcoholic beverages from June 5th through Labor Day weekends, including the Welcoming the World Night Market.

Katie detailed the "Produce on Pike" event running 12 weeks starting July 8th, encouraging businesses to stay open late on event nights. Discussions addressed

challenges of extended hours, staffing fatigue, and busking regulations, with Katie noting day stall rules typically require vendors to leave by 7 p.m. Bob Braun offered to raise related questions with authorities. Measures to mitigate resident impacts during FIFA events are underway.

Katie outlined World Cup marketing initiatives including the "Unity Loop" neon whale tail trail with a 16-foot fluke sculpture on Market Front, flag displays, targeted social media, and cruise ship promotions. The campaign is an enhanced paid effort influenced by FIFA but broadly promoting the market. Braun mentioned a kiosk installation and suggested market participation. Marmion praised street management barricades but raised concerns about public misunderstanding of vehicle restrictions on Stewart and Pike Streets. Katie clarified vehicle access rules, ongoing signage improvements, and community education efforts, agreeing to provide updates to Marmion.

Austin reported Uber and Lyft vehicles circling Post Alley despite closures, raising concerns for FIFA events. Katie confirmed a free waterfront shuttle operates daily. Braun relayed a question about Historical Commission approval for the fluke sculpture; Katie noted coordination with the city but was unsure of approval status and agreed to follow up.

An attendee expressed frustration about business closures during later hours and questioned street management timing. Katie explained the balance between loading needs for farmers and craftspeople and customer parking access, with streets reopening around 4 or 5 p.m. Adjustments will be made based on observations. Positive comments were shared about local visitors using transit and thoughtful street pilot planning.

Christine Vaughan noted a 5.9% year-over-year decline in produce income despite overall revenue growth. Braun emphasized the importance of managing deliveries to avoid increased costs harming merchants. Gina Karaba reported ongoing merchant and visitor surveys for freight and delivery data, encouraging participation. Heather Pihl highlighted misconceptions about market closures and criticized the PDA pilot for insufficiently addressing customer vehicle access needs. Emily Pike offered to assist survey distribution.

Gina suggested reopening sections of Pine and Stewart Streets as drop-off and pickup zones. Braun thanked Katie for her presentation and introduced the election agenda.

Election Announcements

Janis Jordan announced the annual election for five constituency positions, outlining nomination procedures, eligibility, and timelines. Emily Pike declared candidacy for vice chair, Chris Scott for PDA Council, and nominated Jonathan Berner for chair; Austin Godwin nominated Bob Braun for chair. Janis encouraged further nominations and participation.

Braun addressed unacceptable negative conduct toward candidates and urged confidential reporting. Christine Vaughan proposed moving Executive Committee meetings from immediately after constituency meetings to follow the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee (SPPC) meetings to improve communication. Concerns about potential meeting overruns were noted but deemed preferable to truncating council meetings. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the change, effective June.

Chris Scott proposed skipping the May Executive Committee meeting and holding the next in June, citing bylaws and scheduling conflicts. The motion passed unanimously.

PDA Council & Market Historical Commission Reports

Alex Rasmussen provided PDA Council updates: increased busker permits, new crafters and farmers joining, over \$350,000 in flood relief grants awarded to farmers, and ongoing recovery efforts. He highlighted the upcoming Sip and Savor program discussion and encouraged participation. Chris Scott emphasized the long-term nature of flood recovery and ongoing fundraising efforts, with donation information to be shared. Gina Karaba shared financial audit results and recognized Kim Barreto as Washington's Site Manager of the Year for managing Western Avenue Apartments amid housing challenges.

Austin Godwin reported on two Historical Commission meetings, including approval of the 2026 Pike Place Market Outdoor Seating Plan with stipulations. Heather Pihl confirmed a successful presentation on Princess Angeline with a repeat scheduled via Zoom for the PDA Council. Braun requested sharing the Zoom link.

Austin summarized the May 13th PDA Council meeting: approval of the Sip and Savor pilot allowing outdoor alcohol consumption with wristbands and branded cups, street closures during operation, and regulatory approvals with amendments to protect historic elements. Public comments were mixed. The Pike Street Hill Climb refresh and Soames-Dunn Courtyard renovation were approved with public input considered. A public water fountain application was withdrawn. Braun noted active Historical Commission engagement and Gina reported challenges accessing meetings after platform changes.

The Merchants Association update was noted; Jonathan Berner was absent but scheduled to ring the bell Friday morning.

Janis Jordan reported Engagement Committee meetings moved to the first Wednesday monthly at 5:15 p.m. in the classroom. Katie and Rachel discussed volunteer support for PDA word-of-mouth campaigns. Austin and Adora shared positive outreach experiences and brochure demand, with budget confirmed for reprints. Chris Scott offered older brochures as backup.

Closing

No immediate member comments followed. Davin Stedman reported a \$5,000 Friends of the Market grant supporting James's first major solo record, now expanded with involvement from Robert Anderson and other harmonizers. A live show is planned for June 20th at the Rabbit Box as part of Canadian Music Nights, with hopes for sponsorship and streaming. Gina Karaba will collaborate on the project. Phil Saunders is preparing a press release on the economic impacts of Canadian visitors. A discount code and promotional materials were offered. Adora King Rabbit shared positive community engagement experiences and suggested pamphlet distribution to new residents. Alex Rasmussen praised Davin's work and Austin's Market Historical Committee reports. Braun proposed distributing Davin's grant information via email. Davin noted the possibility of live radio and online streaming of the June 20th event. Janis reminded members about membership renewals. Braun adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.