Pike Place Market Constituency
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
July 14th, 2026

Attendees:
In person:
Graham Marmion
Chris Scott
Austin Godwin
Davin Stedman
Bob Braun
Janis Jordan
Corey Hutton
Adora Lopez
Online:
Emily Pike
Jonathan Berner

Opening

Bob Braun opened the Executive Committee meeting of the Pike Place Market Constituency, reviewing meeting protocols, confirming the agenda and minutes were approved without objection, and inviting member comments, none of which were made.

Janis Jordan updated on the upcoming election starting next Tuesday, reminding nominees of the questionnaire deadline and the Candidate Forum next week, where candidates would have two minutes for opening statements followed by questions from the General Assembly. She encouraged candidates to prepare beyond the questionnaire. Bob Braun and Janis discussed election volunteer logistics, including setting up a table on Flower Road at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday. Bob explained the voting process involving emailed one-time codes and reassured members assistance would be available. Jonathan Berner shared last year's volunteer staffing experience, and Austin Godwin proposed sending a sign-up email for shifts.

Committee Reports

Emily Pike reported on engagement committee efforts to improve communication between the PDA, market governance, and the community. Progress was made adding constituency board members to the tenant alert email list via a forwarding alias, with a trial period planned to determine relevant alerts for membership. Jonathan Berner raised concerns about technical difficulties causing audio feedback during the meeting and requested PDA technology support for the next meeting. Bob Braun acknowledged the issue and committed to addressing it with PDA staff. Chris Scott reported a scheduled strategic meeting was canceled due to lack of attendance; the next update would be next month. Graham Marmion confirmed no update from that meeting. Austin Godwin then provided the Market Historical Commission report.

Austin highlighted two approved applications: Christopher's Lamp relocating to the Down Under, and the Night Shift art and music event series featuring amplified sound, extended bathroom hours, city-supported artist equipment, and live performances. He noted public concerns about premature social media announcements before Historic Commission approval and discussed logistical questions about event loading/unloading. Austin also reported ongoing work on totem poles at Victor Steinbrook Park by carver Greg Colfax, who has been invoiced by the city. A standing committee is exploring expanding Historic Commission boundaries to include Victor Steinbrook Park, currently in discovery. Austin announced his nomination to the Historic Commission was approved by the mayor's office to fill one of two Allied Arts seats. Janis Jordan inquired about a special election, which Austin confirmed, noting imperfect timing but potential for additional officer-at-large candidates. He plans to resign his current position and inform the General Assembly.

Bob Braun invited other committee or partnership updates. Jonathan Berner, representing the Merchants Association, reported no recent meetings or updates; Bob noted the slow pace as positive. Emily Pike shared two updates: a Seattle Center tour focused on vehicle access and traffic infrastructure relevant to Pike Place management, and an upcoming meeting organized by Jeff Barnes about establishing a market-wide employee ORCA transit program, which may advance faster than expected. Austin Godwin, as co-vice president of Allied Arts of Seattle, described a “beer and culture” event series, with an upcoming July 30 event on design review. He proposed co-hosting a similar event with Allied Arts, the PDA, and the constituency on Pike Place Street in August or September to present results of the recent street pilot and SDOT plans, including a moderated panel and social time. Janis Jordan and Bob Braun supported bringing the proposal to the General Assembly, noting flexible timing.

Bob Braun emphasized the value of opening communication lines and efficient email outreach. Austin suggested Allied Arts board members send an email with details to the constituency, coordinating with the secretary before the General Assembly. Janis agreed. Bob inquired about timing; Janis explained the Executive Committee sets the agenda for the following month’s General Assembly to allow adequate notice. Bob noted time-sensitive matters have been handled with special emails and meetings and suggested reviewing agenda processes after the election. Graham Marmion reiterated the expectation to plan agendas well in advance. Austin explained the time sensitivity related to SDOT’s formal application to the Historic Commission expected in September, influencing public input timing. Janis confirmed plans for discussion next week and a vote at the August General Assembly.

<u>Davin’s Singing Tour</u>

Davin Stedman updated on his singing tour guide project, including international event plans and efforts to promote original music among buskers. He discussed ideas to increase busker income through volunteer assistance with card payments and community support, expressing optimism about growing the busking community and fostering friendly artistic competition.

<u>August Agenda and Guest Speaker Discussion</u>

Bob Braun suggested the August agenda mirror July’s but without election business.Chris Scott proposed inviting Gordon Padelford to address misinformation about the Seattle Street Alliance at the August meeting, with Heather Pihl potentially presenting later. Janis supported this. Austin sought clarification on outreach methods for invitations. Emily Pike suggested consulting Gordon about the invitation timing. Jonathan Berner expressed concern about an August invitation coinciding with the new administration’s first meeting, fearing political perception, and proposed postponing to September for a balanced presentation including Heather. Bob Braun supported postponement to September, noting the current committee's invitation would be nonpartisan. Graham Marmion initially preferred August for orientation but had no strong preference. Austin emphasized timing to gather public feedback before the pilot ends in early October. Janis agreed, preferring invitations before the pilot's conclusion to enable informed public comment, noting the current committee's invitation would not bias the agenda. Graham suggested inviting Seattle Streets Alliance and Friends of the Market to the same meeting to avoid favoritism; Chris Scott and Janis preferred separate meetings for transparency and to avoid competition. Emily questioned timing, noting PDA and SDOT have solicited public feedback separately and suggested inviting advocacy groups after the pilot ends to respond within the new framework. Janis countered earlier presentations would better inform public comment. Chris clarified his suggestion aimed to resolve misinformation about Seattle Streets Alliance as educational, not decision-influencing. Janis agreed education was important, especially with upcoming leadership changes.

Jonathan proposed promoting public comment opportunities to members and inviting advocacy groups after presentations to re-educate based on new recommendations. Janis cautioned against planning too far ahead and preferred earlier discussions to avoid conflating issues. Chris noted other significant issues, such as an October financial retreat, would also require attention. Bob polled remote members: Jonathan voted for September; Emily expressed no strong preference between August and September. Austin preferred September or later, referencing a prior temporary end date of September 30. Janis and Chris voted for August; Graham abstained. Davin favored September. Bob summarized the committee leaned toward September without a strong majority, proposing an announcement with web links and invitations though no confirmations yet. He recommended excluding the item from the August agenda for now, with possible revision later. Janis emphasized those voting later or abstaining should remember the issue to prevent it being overlooked. Bob agreed, suggesting vigilance to avoid a "black hole," with options to extend the September meeting if needed.

Chris informed the group of upcoming changes: a new Council chair replacing Devin McComb, a soon-to-be-announced new foundation director, and forthcoming discussions on financial and service agreements with the foundation, opening opportunities to invite new leadership. Austin reconsidered, agreeing with arguments for a later date but abstaining since he would not attend the meeting. Bob reminded him of his duty to the current meeting. Emily noted the close vote and abstentions warranted considering invitees' availability. She volunteered to contact Gordon promptly to determine his preference for August or September attendance and report back, noting if August was preferable, they should proceed accordingly.

Closing

Bob acknowledged the importance of accommodating invitees' schedules and called for further business. With none, he adjourned the meeting.