

Draft minutes

Constituency July GA, 7/18/23

Officers in attendance: Adora Lopez, Bob Braun, Bruce Rutledge, Nick Setten (online) Russell Monroe, Joan Paulson

Members: Jonathan Berner, Karen Berner, Heather Pihl, Emily Pile (online) Kim Ramirez, Christine Vaughan, Sally Simmons, Alex Apostopoulos, Bob Messina, Rayana White, Tinker???

Agenda

6:06 p.m. Call to order

6:06 p.m. Approval of agenda Postpone Jonathan's item to August
Nick, 2019 election procedures dictate meeting should be based on election
Slate
Nominations
Voting

6:13 p.m. Approval of minutes, June 20, 2023 General Assembly:

<http://bit.ly/3rpHSGg>

No objections, approved by acclamation.

Modify agenda to conform to 2019 election process
Nick seconds Bob's motion, approved by acclamation

6:13 p.m. Candidate forum and voting

Candidate forum is held

Bruce says he would like to finish the job of secretary-treasurer he started in 2021 and, with Heather Pihl's help, catch up on missing minutes and get the Constituency in good working order for the next secretary.

Kim Ramirez, not able to attend many meetings but passionate about our community. Been in Market for five years, on board of Foundation, active in challenges the Market faces, interested in 50-year plan, her experience would benefit the group, represent crafters, artists and businesses. We need a thoughtful voice that represents the PDA.

Jonathan Berner since 2018 craftsperson, been coming to the Market since he was a kid, his dad even had a date here when he was 16. Came to Con looking for his voice to be heard. Con is institutional pillar of the Market. Need to reach out and make sure people know about us. Help us live up to the purpose.

Joan, at large position. Involved in Market since early 20s. Strengthen the Market because we are still recovering from Covid. Gentrification is not a strength. We are the only Market of its kind in the western US and that is our strength. It will be an uphill battle. Go Market community!

Voting recess

6:45 p.m. Master Plan update

Nick gives update on BERK meeting with various Market-affiliated organizations.

Kim asks how the meetings are progressing.

Gordie explains where to find the information online, but says they are basing their motivations for change on the 9 of the 12 council members who finished their questionnaires.

Joan makes comments

Bob M says Haley introduced a motion about the phrase "highest and best use" at PDA meeting. Bob wonders what happened to that.

Gordie says the PDA doesn't comment on public comments at their meetings.

7:06 Send questions for BERK to service@pikeplacemarketconstituency.org

Jonathan asks if we can send an email to the list soliciting questions.

Joan brings up the issues of sustainability and historic preservation. How will BERK address those issues?

Jonathan, what will the 50-year plan do to comply with the daystall rules to assure farmers and crafters can continue to earn a living at the Market

Heather, questions Constituency priorities. What are our main issues?

Nick says we should build out our 12-month calendar and make it as turnkey as possible.

7:23 p.m. PDA committee reports

Gordie says Programs was canceled this month for a closed session.

Jonathan asked about the process for rules review. Nick says he will bring it up in the Exec Comm tomorrow.

7:24 p.m. Public comment

Joan brings up lack of notice around All Star Game-related events.

Bob M., Parallel issue with Don & Joe's and the Historical Commission. Another business coming in with a second butcher business – Commission language says they “may” reject this but not “shall” reject it.

Nick talks about the necessity of compromise. How do you keep a butcher in that spot if Don & Joe want to sell?

Jonathan, ran into Mary on street during baseball event and mentioned that he hoped that part of the 50-year plan was to improve our ability to have health care and buy a home. We make Seattle what it is and we are traveling from Cle Elum, he said. I live in the city and someone was murdered on my floor. I quintupled my sales and can almost afford health care for my employees. Mary flippantly said it was a priority, he said. It's in our rules that daystallers should be able to succeed financially. Begging PDA Council members to make this issue heard. It's a foundational issue. We need to make enough money to go to the doctor and have a roof over our heads.

Gordie said he got barked at by Mary and JJ when he said they are charging too much. Jonathan disagrees. He says the Market's low prices allow them to exist, but the rules are strict and strain the business models.

Jonathan says they should carefully examine the business models and offer some accommodation. Only allowed to sell 10% of goods that we don't make. Something has to give.

7:49 p.m. Meeting is on recess till 9am on Friday, when voting commences.