

## Minutes

Pike Place Market Constituency General Assembly

May 6, 2023

### In attendance:

Officers: (in person) Adora Lopez, Gordie McIntyre, Nick Setten (online) David Ghodoussi, Joan Paulson

Members: (in person) Jonathan Berner, Karen Berner, Haley Land, Erik Pihl, Heather Pihl (online) Fanny Andrews, Megan Carlisle, Leanne Clarke, Tisbury Ennis, Daniel Fleming, Skip Knox, Bob Messina, Kirsti Ringger, Chuck Saul

Nonmembers: (in person) Christopher Martin

### Approval of Agenda

- Haley suggested we add a public comment before adjourning.
- Amended agenda approved by acclamation.

### Approval of minutes

- None to approve

### Election update

- No updates, Vice Chair is out of town.
- Haley says he had a brief chat with Bruce, and understands that Bob B is to run the election this year, and Bruce has tried rendering some assistance but can't go beyond a certain point because he is up for election.
  - Haley suggests that if Bob is looking for advice, Haley or Nick can give input. He will also need volunteers for running the election table and tabulating the votes.
  - Adora says there is an elections outline, which can be emailed to Bob.
- Heather says that she and Nick can help with the online portion.
- Phone banking led to 60 renewals. Gordie thinks another one should happen. and suggests that once updates have been made, a second round of phone banking for renewals should happen.
  - Adora clarifies that Gordie is helping with membership renewals – Gordie says he is responsible for collecting registrations and passing along to Bruce.
- Outstanding to dos: Election Runner, Candidate Questionnaire, Phone banking part deux, search for volunteers
- Adora solicits volunteers for phone banking and beyond
  - Haley tries to make himself available on election day for something – whether it's the in-person or online portions.
  - Kirsty Ringger volunteers to help with phone banking.
  - Daniel Fleming offers to help with phone banking.
    - Adora says we will reach out via email to give them a date.

- Haley says he just put a whole stack of tear-off Constituency cards thumb-tacked to the Stewart House elevator board, or it can be slid under the door of the Constituency office
- Lori Brankey has been collecting renewals and memberships, Gerd has some, Lamplight Books has a bunch
- Adora can recruit for election day volunteers
- Election dates: 7/18 & 7/21. Election Date. Cutoff for membership renewal 6/21.
- Jonathan is interested in running for the Member at Large position.
- Joan is planning to run again.
- Daniel Fleming is also interested – he’s very new to this process, feels like there’s a place for him somewhere.

#### Constituency Employee Update

- Proposal by Bruce Rutledge
  - “I move to hire Heather Pihl as the Constituency’s part-time assistant”
    - Skip seconds the motion
    - Discussion –
      - Heather says she has done volunteer coordinating in her personal and professional life for decades. Has lots of skills in community engagement, staffed the MHC for 16 years. Also held other jobs working with volunteers. Even before the Constituency came up with formalizing this position, Heather has expressed interest in formalizing the communication banner and getting involved. Over the winter she changed her mind, and Gordie and Bruce encouraged her. She hopes that if we vote yes, she would like to speak further with the ExCom to nail down expectations. She wants to grow the org, get it organized and make it turn-key. Thinks that especially with the Master Plan underway, it’s key to get people in the know.
      - Gordie says that we have a slew of paper records that need to be digitized and create a database for all the records we have. There’s a bunch of old mini-cassettes as well. Since Gordie has done it in 2020 there’s pretty complete records. There’s also boxes full of stuff.
        - Heather has significant experience digitizing old photos of Fremont.
      - Haley says Heather has so much knowledge of the people and places of the Market. and this discussion of needing someone to help in the office and beyond has gone on for years, especially the past two years. In 2022 the PDA made an agreement that it would budget for a part-time position doing this.
      - Nick mentions that minutes is an important part of this role.
      - Adora says there is a duty list already, and Bruce can help support her

- Gordie says the budget is \$20/hr for 10hrs/wk.
  - Heather is happy to do this.
- Resolution passes by acclamation.
- Adora says she will follow up with Heather once Bruce is back.

#### Old Business

- Christopher Martin says that there is an event coming up in May to meet with the consultants about the master plan
  - Nick mentions tomorrow's PDA ExCom, PDA Council Eco-Charrette

#### New Business

- PPM50.com – an unofficial site to get quick info about the minutes from meetings relevant to the 50 yr plan, links to the next meetings, zoom links, background on master plan and scope of work – a simplified version of what's available in the official channel. Still working out some bugs but it launched today. The hope is that it will be a shortcut for some people – e.g. the PDA uses boarddocs, which isn't the easiest thing to navigate – this is not designed to be an opinion site.
- Skip Knox – today when he was cruising on the backdoor of the internet, he noticed there's a bunch of stuff from years back.
  - Nick mentions the Constituency website has out of date info on our meetings page.
- Proposal by Jonathan Berner
  - "I move to create a permanent committee called the Sharon Shaw Crafts Action Committee with the purpose of advocating for the interests of the Daystall Crafts Community. The committee shall be co-chaired by one member of the Constituency Leadership who is not a craftsman to be chosen by Constituency leadership and a Constituency member who is also a craftsman to be chosen by Constituency members who are also craftspeople."
    - Gordie seconds
    - Discussion
      - Heather asks if Jonathan asked the family if this program be named as such.
      - Haley says his issue is the name
      - Tisbury agrees that the name is problematic. Says Sharon has specific ideas about things and we need to be careful.
    - Jonathan moves to amend his motion, removing "Sharon Shaw" from the name, leaving "Crafts Action Committee"
      - Chuck seconds
      - Discussion
        - Heather asks for more information:
          - Jonathan says his intention with this committee is to capture the energy Sharon gave everyone in the daystalls. She gathered a lot of people who think the daystalls haven't been heard by the PDA. Sharon said the Constituency is the best way to make change happen..
          - He wants to 1) listen to the craftspeople. Everything else would follow from there. If crafters bring up an issue, it's the committee's job to address this whether it's providing more info

to crafts, organizing direct action, or providing a gathering place for crafters to feel like a community.

- Jonathan feels like crafters run their biz and go home. He feels like he's part of an extended family, not a tight-knit community.
- Haley says he doesn't think we can have a select group chosen by just one group. Any group created by our membership would be populated as determined by our broad membership.
- Vote on amended name:
  - Friendly amendment approved by acclamation
- Discussion continued
  - Megan Carlisle asks about rules for committee, how often would they meet (weekly, monthly), what's the vision, and also are there any rules for how the committee would be run (e.g. would we vote on things to be brought to the Constituency)
    - Jonathan says that he wants as much unanimity as possible. In regards to frequency of meetings, he pictures it as meeting once a month, reporting to Constituency at GA meetings. In meetings with crafters, this would be an ongoing project for people to take on. He imagines a concerted effort to reach out to every crafter to give them a voice.
    - Megan asks if it will be an all-the-time kind of thing. Will there be a clear mechanism for people to air their grievances? She'd like more information about how the committee would run.
    - Jonathan says he doesn't have all the details and would love this potential committee to work out the details.
  - Daniel Fleming says his big concern and the reason he stepped forward at Sharon's suggestion, is that he has never seen a quorum – 51% of the permit holders – in a room at one time. He's hoping this committee will have pull and become a direct interface with the PDA. He expresses his support for the committee, even though it's not a complete vision yet.
  - Nick reads a comment from Christine Vaughan:

She expressed three concerns: No.1, that this potentially sets up a special interest group for just one group in the Constituency, which dilutes its role of looking at the welfare of the entire neighborhood and being involved with the broader community. Her second concern is that if such a committee was established, what would be the assurance that any actions taken are blessed by the broader membership and the broader crafts community? In effect, how do we make sure that the broader community agrees with the

decisions of this committee? Third, it is hard to vote against anything with Sharon's name on it. Is this something Sharon would have wanted? Do we have her family's consent?

- Nick reads a comment from Miranda Arney:

"I have very serious concerns about Jonathan's proposal for the Sharon Shaw Crafts Action Committee. I'm strongly opposed to naming this committee after Sharon Shaw. As someone who has spent countless hours over the last two years-plus discussing what she wanted her legacy to be, I wholeheartedly believe she would not agree with this proposal. In addition, I believe this proposal directly conflicts with what her plan actually was. I am also concerned that the idea of this plan has been formed with almost no discussion with the community he intends to represent. I understand that there is a great need for crafter representation of tenants issues past, present, and future, but I don't believe this is the right action to take right now. Any suggestion of community advocacy needs to come from direct and lengthy discussions with the community it tends to represent, and finding the correct pathway to address those issue and concerns needs to arise from those discussions. Without honoring those discussions first and foremost, and plan that concerns Market community members cannot be successful. I have spoken these concerns and more directly to Jonathan twice. I am happy to further elaborate what I believe Sharon's plan actually was an discuss what collective solutions can be found. I am committed to carrying out her plan and honoring her legacy, which is why I am writing this comment today. Thank you.

- Bob Messina says as a non-crafter, for establishing a committee of this sort, he would think there would be contact with as many crafters as possible ahead of time to see what their thoughts, opinions, and desired voice is. Bob thinks this needs to be thought out further. He's excited to hear Jonathan's interest and enthusiasm and enthusiastic for the Constituency to be an umbrella. He says we're taking on an issue that can get pretty thorny. He's in favor of having more discussions, but not yet establishing a committee. He's happy to hear the interest in the Constituency.
- Gordie asks Haley if there used to be a Daystall Tenants Association, and asks if this plan would be similar.
  - Haley says the DTA was an independent group and addressed PDA Council as an independent group. It also interfaced with the Merchant's Association and the

Constituency. He thinks the big issue is organizing – and how much work would be involved to get a group similar to the DTA up and running. Haley thinks that with this committee, there's a way to liven things up. Haley suggests that there could still be a group to bring info to the Constituency that doesn't have to be an official body, but this would be a great forum. Also, the PDA Council meeting would be a good forum.

- Haley likes the idea of invigorating the crafts community so they feel like they have a public voice.
  - Adora asks if there has ever been a portion of Constituency meetings that were dedicated to daystall issues. Not sure.
- Skip says first you have to have a visionary to say “follow me.” He congratulates Jonathan for having the vision to say “we gotta do something.” He agrees that it might be more than the Constituency can chew and digest but this is a great place for a forum. In his own experience in the early 90s, the DTA needed a revival and reinvention – he hopes this can be a catalyst for a renewed DTA. He hopes that this motion not be put in the pile on the shelf with other dusty things. If there's continued effort in a timely fashion (next 2-3 months), he would love for crafters to gather. He also urges Jonathan and others to review Constituency bylaws & Robert's Rules' pages on how to form an organization.
- Heather also recognizes and applauds the energy in this. She thinks the Constituency can be an umbrella group. As advocacy chair for Friends of the Market, she sees something different here and is concerned that this would dilute the Constituency's mission. She suggests Jonathan look into what it takes to create a new organization.
- Haley says that regardless of whether there's a DTA, having crafters come to these meetings, speak to the membership and give a sense of frustrations is a good thing. But whether there has to be a committee for it is another question.
- Nick says it's been awhile since we've seen so many new faces in this room, both in person and online. I think it's really important for this organization to find a way to say, “yes, and...” and encourage continued involvement and the passion from people like Jonathan. He says he shares frustration with the lack of Constituency accomplishments. He still has a lot of concern about the measurables. But he thinks this is a very important discussion to continue.
- Jonathan says that as a crafter, he has no reason to exist here at the Constituency – for 5 years, he heard that there is a

Constituency and he should join. In his 5 years, he has only encountered this organization as an organization for the sake of being an organization. His hope in creating this committee is to give this organization a committee to do something other than get people elected.

- He's asking the Constituency to have something to do. He says if his committee doesn't go, then it falls on the Constituency to do the work that isn't happening here.
- He reiterates the real need is to engage crafters and give them a job.
- Skip respects and agrees with many of Jonathan's comments about what do we do except elect people? But when the chips are down and things are really bad, the Constituency is an insurance policy to make sure nothing really bad happens – like the urban group. It's like the National Guard for the Market. This committee might be more than the Constituency can necessarily take on itself right now. He hopes that Jonathan will stick with it.
- Gordie somewhat agrees with Skip that the crafters should organize themselves, but that is a huge job. He sees Jonathan's idea as being something of a seed to help revitalize or lead to a new DTA.
- Haley says there are compelling arguments across the board. He agrees with Gordie's comments. He doesn't know ultimately that forming a committee would be the final way that the daystall tenants organize. Haley is skeptical that any group in the Market is going to organize and get 90, 50 or 25% of its group active. If Haley votes for this, he would be voting for its birth – not for an active group that would be the tail that wags the dog for the Constituency. He's open to the idea, but just wishes it was framed differently.
- Daniel says it's really a problem that 150-200 permit holders don't exist as a collective. He thinks that for \$1/yr nobody has any skin in the game. He thinks the craft community should be collectivized.
- Nick offers a friendly amendment to Jonathan to give the committee a hard deadline and set off on a fact-finding mission to raise the issues and discussion topics crafters want the Constituency to tackle.
  - Jonathan moves to table this discussion until the next Constituency GA, and resume by beginning with a conversation about how to amend this motion, keep it limited in temporal scope, and using it as a chance to do a public outreach/fact-finding mission about the challenges of the craft community.
    - Haley seconds
      - Discussion

- Motion to table passed by acclamation.

#### PDA Committee Reports

- Late on time, pushed to next meeting

#### Agenda for June Meeting

- Late on time, pushed to ExCom

#### Public comment

- Kristopher asks about archives, and if there's a way to do a 'see yourself in history' experience
- 

#### Adjourn