

Pike Place Market Constituency General Assembly Meeting 4/14/20

Board members present: Jerry Barroh, Nick Setten, Russell Monroe, Betty Halfon, David Ghouddousi, Mark Brady, Ali Mowry, Joan Paulson, Shari Curiel, Gordie McEntyre

Other members present: Laurie J., Colleen Bowman, Devin McComb, Bob Messina

Board members absent: David Ott

Nick calls the meeting to order at 6:06pm

Nick calls for approval of the minutes. No minutes present to approve.

Russell sets the agenda schedule (see below). Joan calls point of order on the existence of a quorum. Russell verifies quorum exists. Joan calls point of order on this being the incorrect Tuesday on which this meeting is otherwise held. Nick acknowledges this as an oversight.

Agenda

1. Reports from PDA Council Reps and Committees
2. Constituency 2020 Elections
3. COVID Response
4. PDA Council Reps abstentions on Council Member Bridge vote
5. Renew letters to members

Agenda Item #1: Reports from PDA Council Reps and Committees

Betty reports no Marketing meeting. David reports on PDA voting on resolution for market aid during the COVID crisis. Joan reports PDA has used \$2 million from the rainy day fund to pay bills for the month ahead and it was approved unanimously. Gordie reports that public right of way rents for Market renters, but not their base rent. Mark reports that the PDA Council also approved a 4 month hold on CAM (common area maintenance) payments from vendors to the PDA. Joan recommends a review of the legislation about this. David reports that it was a broad resolution. Mark reports that each vendor. Nick inquires about rent forgiveness for April. Ali reports that a recent tenant alert stated that rent for April would not be collected at that time. Nick inquires if we should add some information about this overall resolution into the newsletter. David reports that \$815,000 is what the PDA did not collect in CAM. Colleen suggests we run our messaging on the resolution past the PDA. Nick calls for a volunteer to write up a paragraph about the resolution and pass it by Mary (PDA Executive Director). Ali volunteers to do so and the appropriate dates are set. Committee reports: Nick and Gordie talked about the podcast and

reports that the Constituency will have two episodes with the first featuring himself and Gordie and the second featuring Gordie and David. Gordie reports that Jerry Antush is doing well and looking forward to doing the podcasts. Consensus is that we should have the podcasts out before the election, ideally by the end of May. Gordie reports that 70% of the membership base will be expiring in May. David reports off topic that the PDA has furloughed and others given a pay cut. Joan reports 20% of the 107 staff has been furloughed and 7 members of the executive received a 10% pay cut with no amount reported in savings. Gordie advises that we need to be keeping receipts and records of new membership forms/dues. Discussion around past systems of how members signed up/paid their dues. Nick says that he will send out all of his past compiled elections documents to the board for review. Laurie inquires about the date of the next ExCom meeting, which Russell verifies will be on April 30th via Zoom. It is established that this will most likely be how we meet until further notice.

Agenda Item #2: Constituency 2020 Elections

Nick inquires about everyone's thoughts on the election moving forward or if we should postpone it. Betty states that voting by phone or mail would be ideal and not a health risk but thinks this may be prohibited by charter. Russell states that a decision about how the election will take place must be decided and made public no later than a month prior to the election, with most agreeing. Nick verifies that Russell as Secretary-Treasurer is in charge of running the elections this year and that he will send him last year's election documents. Joan voices that those documents should be sent to a nominations committee of 5 people. Nick says he can just send them out to the whole board. Russell gives an overview of board members who are on the ballot this year, which are Jerry, Nick, Betty, Gordie, and David Ott. Russell requests from the incumbents a declaration of intention about their plans to run or not.

Agenda Item #3: COVID-19 Response

Mark voices his disappointment around the grants being issues to businesses affected by COVID-19. Joan states that aid was prioritized to low-income areas and minority business owners. David reports that the PDA safety net is at \$120,000 and highly advises that we put all information around PDA aid and resources be put out in our newsletter. Colleen says she will send a list of PDA aid resources to Laurie for the newsletter. Russell asks if there's anything else we should be saying to our constituents/the public, and that we should be careful of putting out unverified information about aid.

Agenda Item #4: PDA Council Reps abstentions on Council Member Bridge vote

Nick asks open-endedly about the abstention votes cast by David, Betty, Mark and Ali during the recent PDA Council vote to place nominee Ed Bridge on the council. Bob reports that he was there. And believes that if there was any issue around the nomination committee, then that's an issue on the part of his being elected. He then weighs in on the issue of unanimous voting. Betty reports that the nominating committee did what they were supposed to do. Her issue with his candidacy was that it was rushed, she didn't know much about Candidate Bridge, and that the Council is usually given the resumes of three people and then the N.C. would weigh in on their pick. Nick takes a minute to confirm that the N.C. consisted of Rico, JJ, Colleen, Mark, and Ray. David asks if this was a closed-session meeting. Colleen reports that it was committee work that was technically open to the public and that they put out a public decision. David says this was the first time all PDA reps voted in a bloc in over 10 years, and that they made their votes independently. He felt that Bridge's resume was inclusive and showed little public involvement. Gordie asks if any members of the Council received any resumes other than Bridge's. Betty says she did not. Mark reports that the N.C. brought the nominee resumes from 10 to 4. He objects that he was asked to hand in his notes by one of the councilmembers and thinks it's weird that Rico invited the Executive Director to the meeting. He reports that the vote eventually came down to two candidates who were favored equally until the mention of one of the candidate's having a conflict of interest. Mark did not believe that this candidate did given that they made it to this point in the nomination. The tie was split by Mary being a proxy vote and Ed Bridge became the nominee. He reports that the process was wrong and rushed. Russell asks if that was why he abstained. Mark says that it was, and that he voiced his concern to Ali before the vote and that Rico mismanaged the procedure of the nominations committee. Ali reports that she received a bio about Bridge and was confused because his retail philosophy is antithetical to the market. She states that he made his money selling diamonds and stuff in malls. She reports that she sent a list of criteria that she would like to see in a candidate to Rico in January and that none of the criteria were addressed. She remained unanswered after asking for more information about Bridge's connection to the market and then was rushed into a vote, which is why she abstained. She reiterates that she will try to work with Bridge and be amicable. She then reports that Rico suggested to her that they write a letter of disapproval to himself and Mary, and then asks the board if it should be 4 individually written letters from the PDA reps. Nick then summarizes the main concerns with Bridge: no connection to the market and an issue with the process of his nomination. Colleen iterates that we should be careful around talking about specific people. Gordie then asks his original question about whether the full council had knowledge of other candidates or only given one option to vote yes or no on. Colleen points out that all five of the past N.C.s she has been on;

they were tasked with nominating a single candidate. Gordie asks that given that Bridge still needs to officially be confirmed by the mayor, would the Constituency (or members of) be able to write a letter to the mayor voicing concern? Ali believes doing so would undermine the PDA Council. Gordie says he's just asking if there's one more step in the process. Nick believes we should handle this internally first. Russell asks for verification that Bridge is filling a mayoral appointed seat to the council - which it is said that he is. Mark believes this needs to be handled with Rico and Mary by the 4 reps in tandem with the Constituency before any external letter writing happens. David believes that the process needs to be looked at more closely next year. Russell suggests that the reps submit their letters to Nick so that he can formulate a unified response from the Constituency as a whole. David advises sensitive portions be left out. Nick asks Betty if she is okay with writing a letter and she says that she is. Nick asks Devin and Colleen if either of them would like to speak to the issue as they are both councilmembers. Colleen reports that she did not feel personally rushed and that the N.C.'s decision was apparent and the time had come to bring it to full council. She reports that Bridge was her preferred candidate of the original 10. She believes that we should have a discussion around the process and do better next year, but that the work of the process is done and the decision was made by the majority of the council and is now in the hands of City Hall. She also points out that he is a mayoral appointee on the council and thus weighed his professional expertise accordingly. Nick asks Colleen if Bridge was ever asked about his business background being antithetical to PPM values; she declines to talk about interview questions but cites his expertise in understanding changing demographics in retail settings. Devin states that as a mayoral appointee himself - in addition to not physically living or working in the Market - means that he strives to work to obtain a consensus. He questions why the reps didn't just vote no instead but acknowledged that it was tough timing for that vote to come to council during the general situation at the time. He voices his concern about Bridge coming onto the council with the dissent of all 4 Constituency reps. Joan reports that the majority of public comment after the vote was of surprise and awe. She is dismayed that Rico did not lay out a plan and believes that the Constituency should move to disrupt the process to figure out what went wrong. Nick asks the 4 reps to cc him on their letters. David believes they should only be sent to Rico. Devin asks Nick what the goal of having the correspondence is. Nick responds that the crux of the matter is the process, which was brought up wholly by the Constituency and that it should be acknowledged. Jerry brings up the value of having words written down. Bob praised the strengths of everyone's positions and also recommends writing the events down. It is decided that the 4 reps will write formal letters of concern and Nick again asks that he and Jerry be cc'd.

Agenda Item #5: Renewal letters to members

Jerry expresses concern over keeping the membership current during the COVID pandemic. A general discussion follows on whether or not the Constituency can have a bank account, how funds would be collected online, the use of Paypal, etc. A major point is that much of the \$1 payment would be deducted by third parties. Laurie will put out a notice to the membership that they must renew by the third Tuesday in June in order to be eligible to vote in the July elections. Mark suggests we send everyone a membership form that they fill out and return in the mail with a dollar. Laurie recommends that the board members reach out to their own contacts to solicit renewals/membership. Nick asks if there are any other comments. Joan brings up a point of order that our bylaws do not accommodate for meetings being held or votes being taken in this way and that it should be addressed at a future meeting. David stresses that the Bridge issue is not about a single candidate but the process which occurred and that the Constituency must do its best to work with our PDA Council members. Jerry thanks everyone for joining us via Zoom.

New business or public comment: none

Nick adjourns the meeting at 8:10pm.