

Constituency General Assembly DRAFT minutes
March 20, 2018

Attendance: Chris Scott, Gloria Skouge, Jerry Baroh, Nick Setten, Bob Messina, Paul Neal, Joan Paulson, David Ghoddousi, David Ott, Mavit Sattrones, Ali Mowry

Chris opened the meeting.

Special Guest: PDA Councilmember Paul Neal

Paul said he has served on the PDA Council for about seven months. He was nominated by the Council. He has also been a tenant in the Market for six years, working as a business consultant. His office used to be in Pioneer Square; he wanted to move to a location that has more community. The Market has been central to his experience living in Seattle for the past 29 years.

Jerry asked about his experience with marketing. Paul said that he was asked to serve on the PDA Council because of his expertise in marketing and business operations. He asks for metrics because his clients are always asking him for them.

Nick asked what his perceptions of the PDA Council was before joining it. Paul answered that his only contact earlier was with finding a space for his office in the Market earlier. Nick asked what has been the biggest learning curve. Paul said you get asked questions and have a large binder to review, so you do the best you can. He said he asks for clarification when he doesn't understand. He thinks there could be a more formal process for onboarding PDA Council members.

Nick asked what Paul thinks is the greatest challenge facing the PDA. Paul cited the resignation of the previous director and working through the deliberations around it. He spoke to the challenges of an increasing population and the changes in shopping habits. He said that the Market doesn't make decisions fast, because there are checks and balances in it, which he thinks is good; he trusts the process.

___? asked Paul what brought him to Seattle. Paul answered that the view of the waterfront from the Market on a visit motivated him to move here.

David asked Paul to tell about his experience with non-profits. Paul said he served on board of the NW AIDS Foundation for six years, the last two years of which he served as president. He said the board was known to be contentious. He said there were a lot of seasoned board members. It was an incredible learning experience. It mattered that he was emotionally engaged. He said a staff member embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from the insurance program while he was president. Some board members wanted to keep a lid on it. He felt the board should be transparent about it, and the Executive Director agreed with him.

Joan asked if Paul has read about the Market's history. She talked about the Urban Group's attempt to take over the Market. She noted that there had to be a change in the Charter to keep it from happening again. She wanted to know how he feels about the board not adhering to the Charter, and how he feels about the expansion of the district. Paul said he knows the Charter was done very intentionally. He said the DSA is using images of the Market to sell downtown. Joan expressed a concern about the lack of the Market Commission's authority over the use of First Ave.

Chris talked about the importance of leadership on the PDA Council. He said there are some hot issues in the Market right now, including the Hahn Building, having a functional Merchants Association. Paul asked what is the relationship between the Constituency and the Merchants Association. Chris said there is no connection. Paul asked what happened to the Merchants Association. David explained that there was a split.

Joan explained that the Merchants Association started at the same time as the PDA and provided some additional history and background.

Ally asked Paul about the Hahn building. Paul said he is concerned about it, but more as a tenant and someone that loves the Market than as someone who sets policies in the Market. He is concerned about people taking over the building that would not be shopping at the Market, the congestion.

Ally said she learned from a construction worker that the cherry trees would be taken down. She called the city arborist, and they didn't know about it. She is concerned about the loss of the trees. She also expressed a concern about the loss of the Orca Card fare coverage for businesses at the Market.

Nick asked about Paul's favorite place to have lunch in the Market. Paul said he loves Place Pigalle, Le Pichet, the Athenian, the Pink Door, and Campagne.

Jerry suggested that Paul ask questions of the Constituency.

Paul asked about the Constituency's planning process. Chris explained that the Constituency invites guest speakers, has a seasonal cycle and focuses on issues in the Market, such as the Hildt/Licata Agreement.

Chris talked about the Round Table that used to exist in the early 2000s, and how it helped to work out issues at the Market. Chris said the Constituency will have an office in the DownUnder, next to Our Fabric Stash.

7:01 Meeting adjourned.