

**Pike Place Market Constituency
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 9th, 2026**

Attendance:

In person:

Gina Karuba
Chris Scott
Alex Rasmussen
Christine Vaughn
Emily Pike
Davin Stedman
Bob Braun
Janis Jordan

Online:

Austin Godwin
John Kelso
Heather Pihl

Opening

Bob Braun called the Pike Place Market Constituency Executive Committee meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. on June 9, 2026, reviewed meeting procedures, and moved to approve the agenda and minutes without objection. Janis Jordan reminded members to renew memberships by the following Tuesday to be eligible to vote in the annual election. Bob praised Janis and Emma for improved election communications. During public comments, Heather Pihl requested discussion of a King 5 news story about farmers' delayed load-out due to city-mandated barriers extending market closures to 5 p.m. Austin Godwin inquired about the membership cutoff for voting and volunteered to assist with timely processing.

Janis provided election updates, noting nominations had been open for about a month and encouraged recruitment. She distributed a summary prepared by Austin and the nomination committee (Austin, Bruce, Graham). Committee members reported outreach efforts: Gina Karuba noted some candidates lost interest but mentioned Tyler; Chris Scott planned to nominate Cory Hutton; Alex Rasmussen encouraged food vendors to join; Emily Pike announced her vice chair candidacy and proposed nominating market busker Diego J. Moss pending membership confirmation by June 21. Austin supported

nominating Diego, Cory, and Adora for officer-at-large, with Bob's endorsement. Austin also suggested outreach to a Lonely Siren worker and former MHC member Alyssa Ochsner. Janis confirmed coordination on outreach.

Bob clarified unfamiliarity with a contact Austin mentioned; Austin explained she sends emails Bob responds to. Bob committed to reaching out regarding SDOT survey interest despite low expectations. Janis reported a potential candidate from Down Under and another from Don and Joe's Meats, emphasizing the importance of meat and produce sector representation. Janis summarized nominations: Cory, Diego, Alyssa, Donna, Adora, and a possible fifth candidate. She encouraged further nominations and proposed updating the nomination list before the General Assembly.

Bob introduced Committee Reports, thanking members for attending multiple meetings. Alex Rasmussen reported satellite markets at South Lake Union and First Hill would resume July 10 through September 11, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., with a third market planned. He described a nearly three-hour Zoom feedback session on the Sip and Savor program, acknowledging limited lead time for community input and plans for monthly feedback sessions with day stallers and farmers.

Sip & Savor Discussion

Chris Scott noted Sip and Savor was a business initiative, not a PDA program, and addressed misinformation about Market Historic Commission opposition, clarifying it mostly approved the program. Christine Vaughan criticized late communication and highlighted the market's unique governance. Gina Karaba shared concerns about craft vendors' seniority being impacted, pavilion map exclusions, and suggested PDA approval precede Market Historic Commission review. Austin noted PDA approval of the plan but uncertainty about communication effectiveness. Christine acknowledged lessons learned regarding communication timing.

Emily Pike sought clarification on seniority issues; Gina explained alcohol vendors' spot selection affected longstanding craft vendors, displacing them. Chris Scott clarified boundaries are not PDA-determined. Davin Stedman shared that some businesses avoid Sip and Savor fearing repercussions, contrasting with larger entities. Alex explained only three alcohol vendors can sample on the craft line but must do so outside Sip and Savor boundaries, causing tension. He noted strict regulations on Sip and Savor participants. Gina raised security concerns due to customer access behind vendor tables.

Chris emphasized maintaining family-friendly environments and questioned market

alcohol policies. Davin reflected on cultural shifts in alcohol consumption post-pandemic. Gina recounted enforcement challenges on the first day of pavilion setup. Austin expressed disappointment with the market's change management, urging improved stakeholder engagement and phased rollouts. Gina supported forming a stakeholder committee to prevent top-down decisions; Austin preferred better use of existing committees with adequate lead time.

Christine Vaughan highlighted restrictions on market movement during Sip and Savor due to liquor board and city rules, causing unintended consequences for farmers' load-out times. Alex shared potential solutions like staff moving barriers to facilitate earlier load-out. Chris noted multiple external agencies influence event timing but organizers control implementation. Bob suggested developing a constituency position on multi-use street closures to balance market activities. Gina advocated returning street control from SDOT to PDA and forming a stakeholder committee including farmers, buskers, and crafters. Bob noted challenges without PDA formation and encouraged crafters to organize within the constituency. Janis proposed dedicating time at the General Assembly for stakeholder input to formulate a constituency stance. Bob agreed to include this in the agenda. Gina and Christine supported this approach.

Austin asked Christine for her perspective. Christine emphasized market decisions should be made by the market community, not external entities, criticized Sip and Savor for reducing market control, and expressed concern about SDOT's citywide survey influencing policy. Bob affirmed the constituency's stance that the market community should control the market. Chris noted risks of uninformed outside respondents affecting SDOT policy. Gina and Christine agreed many outside respondents should not influence market decisions. Chris cited the Seattle Street Alliance as a supportive outside group. Bob stressed mobilizing market members to voice opinions. Emily expressed internal conflict about excluding wider Seattle residents from feedback. Chris responded feedback should be informed. Emily explained PDA's separate surveys for merchants, residents, and visitors. Christine reiterated final decisions rest with the Historical Commission and PDA after considering feedback.

Emily noted SDOT as a PDA partner; Chris agreed but noted behind-the-scenes complexities. Emily asked about SDOT's information sharing; Bob and Chris confirmed data is public. Christine cited public records showing SDOT denied PDA's request to extend unload/load zones, illustrating external control. Emily asked about Rachel's response; Chris confirmed mixed opinions on her leadership and suggested a city initiative affirming PDA and Historical Commission authority. Austin supported this. Gina recalled past Department of Neighborhoods attempts to take control. Bob invited

Alex to speak; Alex suggested moving on due to time constraints.

Chris mentioned the upcoming Historical Commission report and Merchant Association report absence. Bob shared a meeting with the market newspaper editor interested in sustaining the publication and raised potential collaboration. Chris recalled prior presentations indicating a shift toward digital format; Megan Lees owns the paper, having acquired rights from the Merchants Association. Bob noted ownership uncertainties but emphasized the value of a physical publication. Chris lamented loss of journalistic rigor and bias prevalence. Christine raised concerns about individual ownership affecting constituency support. Bob noted inconsistent Mastiff listings. Davin shared his role as columnist, efforts to understand ownership, and plans to generate income through ads, praising Megan's editing.

Bob summarized general interest in continuing a paper publication despite differing views. Davin inquired about the paper's history; Chris explained the Merchants Association once managed it but it became a private operation under Megan Lee. Emily suggested moving on; Bob agreed and asked Emily to present the engagement report. Janis reminded the group of the upcoming General Assembly. Austin updated on the June 10 Market Historical Commission meeting discussing a proposed Cafe Divina and temporary day stall space for farmers. Emily reported delaying process improvements until after the election to involve new board members, reviving the "tip your busker" initiative with Greg Anderson, and Rachel and Katie attending the July 1 committee meeting to explore leveraging mailing lists and volunteers for genuine community feedback. The meeting is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on July 1.

Closing

Bob acknowledged Austin's note about PDA office tours offered by EJ for interested PDA or Constituency Council members. Bob moved to non-agenda comments and proposed setting the next meeting agenda. Janis outlined the proposed agenda, including election updates, PDA representation, a 45-minute open discussion on Sip and Savor feedback, Treasurer's Report, committee reports, and member comments. Janis offered to distribute the agenda directly.

Bob suggested reminding members about the SDOT survey link to encourage participation; Emily agreed. Alex, Gina, and Christine planned to share the Zoom link in Rafter Facebook groups to engage more people, especially for the Sip and Savor discussion. Janis emphasized sharing the link to allow non-members to comment, potentially attracting new members.

Gina proposed posting meeting and event information in employee restrooms requiring fob access; Chris supported this and suggested the break room, though Gina noted limited use. Emily offered to print materials for stall doors; Austin requested use of his design. Gina preferred placing materials near key hooks for visibility. Chris suggested raising posting ideas with Rachel. Emily expressed concern about custodial removal of materials; Gina recommended installing a corkboard or chalkboard for ongoing notices. Austin clarified his design was not for urinals, prompting lighthearted remarks.

Bob noted the meeting was ending early and, with humor from Emily, officially adjourned the meeting.