

## **Pike Place Market Constituency Minutes**

Meeting Type: Executive Committee, Regular Meeting

Date: July 28, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm PST.

Place: Meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Attendance: Adora Lopez, Nick Setten, Bob Braun, Jerry Baroh, Russell Monroe, Gordon McIntyre, Christine Vaughn, Colleen Bowman, Murad Habibi.

Christine Vaughn clarifies that if there is not a quorum present, the Executive Committee can meet, cannot pass any resolutions, but can address administrative work. She also clarifies that the new bylaws do not call for a ratification of the Election.

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order at 6:41 by Chair Adora Lopez.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Hearing no objection, the agenda was approved by acclamation.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve from the June Executive Committee meeting. Nick Setten reports that we have been operating at a skeleton crew, but the membership did pass a resolution at the last meeting to allow for minutes outsourcing.

Christine Vaughn clarifies that the minutes from the General Assembly meetings should be approved at General Assembly meetings, and minutes from the Executive Committee should be approved at the Executive Committee.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Old Business**

Nick gives a report from the Committee that has been charged to follow the Pike Place Market Historical Commission (hereby, the MHC Committee).

Gordon McIntyre joins.

MHC Committee Member, Nick Setten invites Christine Vaughn to add comments as/after he reports. Nick recaps that Skip Knox proposed a resolution that passed to create a subcommittee to attend and report back from Historical Commission meetings, to keep an eye on proposed legislation from the Department of Neighborhoods, taking a number of decisions and putting them under administrative review. Nick reminds that the Pike Place Market Historic Commission was created as part of the 1971 initiative to allow for people and the community to have a say about the historic integrity of the district. The Commissioners

purview is quite extensive. There have been attempts to do away with citizen commissions, like MHC, but the Pike Place Market is a unique neighborhood and MHC is a unique commission.

Nick Setten reports that he sat in on a meeting about a month ago. The Constituency sent a letter, supporting the self-determination of MHC, and asked for them to be held from this proposed legislation. The chair of MHC expressed discomfort on sending a letter from the body. A discussion ensued around the very identity and purposes of the organization. During the last week's meeting there was a rousing level of support from most Commissioners who wrote letters in favor of MHC being withheld from legislation. There is a sense that the conversation has been stymied. There doesn't seem to be a clear way forward.

MHC Committee members Nick Setten and Skip Knox discussed potential next steps. They think the next logical step is to mobilize the membership by providing easy tools by which people can send letters and activate our membership. That is the committee's proposed next step.

Christine Vaughn seconds what Nick said and thinks the simpler the message the better. She believes there are two messages; (1) it's not appropriate for the Market, which is a small historic district and (2) keep the Market out of the legislation. She said the Constituency would be wise to bolster the Commissioners who have spoken most eloquently about the need to keep the Historical Commission's integrity. All Commissioners, except for one, were supportive of sending the letter. She notes the importance of timing, saying it would be better if the Market was never put in the legislation, as it will be harder to get it taken out rather than it never being part of it. She thanks everyone for taking this up and thinks it's important.

MHC Committee Member, Skip Knox adds that he missed Nick's comments, but expects he did a yeoman's job. He doesn't recommend negotiation. He says, that is "the job of the Department of Neighborhoods to support the Market Historic Commission". He states that supporting the Historical Commission "as requested" is verbatim from the legislation and clarifies that the Historical Commission has never requested support or administrative review, nor did they request the survey that was contracted in November of last year. He notes a failure to move members through the mayor's office.

Skip closes by encouraging all members to assume they are members of the MHC Committee formed to monitor the Department of Neighborhoods. He sees no reason to exclude any Constituency member from saying they are a member of the MHC Committee. He states that we "want the Market to be free from internal oversight...and restored to their capacity to make decisions that are in the best interest of the Market".

Bob Braun asks about the City Council representative for the district. He mentions there might be redistricting and asks "what is his position"?

Skip Knox responds and says yes, it would be good to meet up with him and welcomes Bob Braun. He says whatever message goes out needs to be simplified and repeated, as Christine Vaughn mentions. He specifies that CM Morales has the committee in which this matter

resides, and it would be a great idea to lobby City Council. Skip follows up, "It would be a good idea for the Constituency to send a clear-eyed, well spoken, well-rehearsed delegation to meet up with Andrew Lewis". He adds that, "the Market Community is a delicate ecosystem of its own...it has to take somebody who understands how it really works to convince other people to keep their hands off of it". He says taking away the legislative function of the Market, "could be devastating to the Market".

Bob Braun thanks Skip Knox and notes the opportunity to talk with CM Lewis and/or mobilize others through a petition to CM Lewis and the Chair of the oversight committee. He is willing to meet with CM Lewis. He notes the discussion should revolve around political realities.

Gordon McIntyre recalls that when CM Lewis was first elected, we asked him to come meet with the Constituency and there was no response initially. He notes that "it shouldn't be that hard to send him a message, either from the Chair of the Constituency or the Chair of the Constituency and Mary the Director to ask him to come down here and meet with us, on that subject".

Bob Braun suggests that in consideration of their limited time and full calendars, that a well-organized delegation be sent to him instead of asking CM Lewis to attend our meeting.

Nick Setten says he thinks this is going a great direction, and suggests we appoint a sub-committee to meet with Councilmembers Lewis and Morales. He asks, do we want to move forward with a mass letter writing effort?

Bob suggests mentioning the number of membership and possibly joining forces with members of Save the Market Entrance.

Skip Knox notes a sense of urgency, but is concerned about a thorough conversation beforehand, to put together a plan. He suggests a formal motion.

Adora Lopez suggests a letter campaign prior to a lobby visit or any kind of meeting.

Skip Knox moves, "That a subcommittee be appointed by the Chair to draft an approach to city council people and the mayor, if necessary, on this legislation that the Department of Neighborhoods is bound to produce." Motion 07282022-1 is on the table.

Nick Setten seconds the motion and adds a friendly amendment, "That this subcommittee plan to convene prior to the next General Assembly meeting to develop said strategy and working plan so that it can be discussed with the Membership at the next General Assembly Meeting, and we can look to our membership for guidance as how to proceed strategically from there". Bob Braun seconds the motion and the amendment.

Skip accepts the friendly amendment.

Adora Lopez asks for more clarity, so everyone knows what they are voting on.

Bob Braun asks if Nick Setten can restate the whole motion.

Nick restates that Skip so moves resolution, “This is a motion for the Executive Committee Chair to appoint a subcommittee to develop a strategy and working plan for approaching City Council members and potentially the mayor on the subject of the Market Historical Commission and its place in proposed legislation. This subcommittee would convene and produce a working strategy to be reviewed by the Membership at the August General Assembly meeting of 2022.”

Bob Braun seconds the motion.

Bob Braun makes a Point of Order, asks if there is a quorum. Discussion ensues about what constitutes a quorum in Executive Committee and what is permissible action. Skip Knox, Bob Braun and Gordon McIntyre contribute.

Colleen Bowman makes two Points of Order (1) that there are six Executive Committee Members on the call, therefore a quorum is present and (2) “that the Executive Committee can vote on anything as long it falls under administrative business. If it is beyond administrative business, it should go forward to the General Membership after this meeting”.

Nick Setten believes this is a “germane” to the conversation and Bob Braun states that this is “clearly administrative”.

Adora Lopez asks if there are any objections to this motion.

Skip Knox suggests adding a press relations strategy to this work plan, and starts to make a motion. Jerry Baroh offers a Point of Order, “that there is a motion on the floor.” Skip Knox rests.

Bob Braun Calls to Question, says he heard no objection and would ask that the Motion be “announced as ratified”.

Adora Lopez asks for any objections. Hearing none, Motion 07282022-1 is passed.

Gordon McIntyre makes a Point of Order, that only Executive Committee Members can vote on this motion.

### **New Business**

Nick suggests a read through of Constituency Bylaws as a group exercise in Executive Committee. Russell Monroe asks for it to be added to the next Executive Committee agenda. Nick Setten recommends it be parsed out into 30-minute sessions.

Nick Setten appreciates that Adora Lopez and Bruce Rutledge will be looking at a calendar and planning out the year.

Jerry Baroh adds that the Bylaws should be brought to the General Membership too, just not as in-depth.

Adora Lopez will talk further about Bylaws review and the calendar with Bruce Rutledge. She encourages people to invite members to the next GA.

Discussion around accessibility to the Bylaws ensues. Adora Lopez, Colleen Bowman, Gordon McIntyre and Nick Setten contribute.

### **PDA Council Reports**

Nick Setten reports that “business is good”, the farmers are facing extenuating circumstances, this is trending to be the best year the Market has had since 2019. The PDA’s big focus is on navigating COVID. The Council are working in Nominations Committee to elect a new slate of officers. A few leases were passed in FAM, and a resolution to fix doors on the First and Pine Building. They are finishing up the sewer project. Sunset Supper is August 19<sup>th</sup>, and there is a community discount code.

Gordon McIntyre adds that the Council passed a resolution to authorize the Director to spend 2.4M on the deconstruction and reconstruction of the elevator in the parking lot. Lease proposals authorized were for; The Alabaster Owl in the Triangle Building which sells “curated wizard, magic themed, and castle-worthy second-hand items”, a lease renewal for Earth, Wind and Fire, a new lease for Magpie Mouse, a handmade enamel jewelry shop, and a new lease to Seattle Hats in the Leland Building.

Nick adds that Magpie Mouse was a temporary, pop-up business in the incubation space where the newsstand used to be.

Russell Monroe reports on the PDA Council Nominations Committee. He reports that the Committee is charged with providing the full PDA Council with recommendations on all the chairs and vice chairs of the committees, as well a recommendation for one Council-originated position. Abraham Dairi will not be put forward for this position at this time, but the committee hopes he will join us in the future. There are other names that the Nominations Committee is considering. The committee consists of Russell Monroe, Paul Neal and Jan Hendrickson. Interviews are happening next week, and there will be more information in the next month.

Gordon McIntyre asked Russell Monroe if the Zoom coordinates will be available for interviews. Russell clarifies that only includes members of the Council, not the general public, can be present for interviews. Gordon restates they are closed session and only councilmembers can attend. Russell says yes, but no commenting.

**Public Comment**

Skip Knox and Nick Setten discuss more details about the process of the MHC Committee. Nick volunteers to lead the next steps for the committee and draft, along with Skip Knox and Bob Braun, something in the next few weeks. He invites others.

Adora Lopez thanks everyone for their patience with the technical challenges, welcomes new officer, Vice Chair Bob Braun, and looks forward to being more organized this year. She encourages everyone to invite two or more members, to expand our voice.

Adora Lopez adjourns the meeting at 8:01.

*Bruce Rutledge*

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Bruce Rutledge, Secretary/Treasurer