

**Pike Place Market Constituency
General Assembly Meeting Minutes
March 17th, 2026**

Attendance:

TO BE ADDED

Opening

Janis Jordan opened the meeting by outlining the agenda, noting no approval of previous minutes was needed as the last General Assembly was an open house. Graham Marmion confirmed the January minutes were posted. Janis emphasized that public comments would be accepted only during designated periods and introduced guest speaker Ross Henikman, Director of Public Safety and Security. She also mentioned a vote on the logo design and upcoming committee reports. Graham Marmion was granted co-host status to assist with chat monitoring. During the public comment period, Heather Pihl expressed concern about limiting comments to specific times, which Janis explained was due to her first time chairing. Christine Vaughan clarified that public comments were for non-agenda items, while agenda discussions like the logo were open to all. Chris Scott noted the current open forum format was a change from prior formal comment periods.

Ambassador Program

Katie Trent, PDA COO, introduced a pilot Ambassador Program running Memorial Day through Labor Day to enhance visitor experience. Volunteers would serve rotating three-hour weekend shifts, receiving parking, restroom access, swag, and training. The program was inspired by other markets like New York's High Line and involved collaboration with Friends of the Market, Downtown Seattle Association, and Visit Seattle. Questions addressed busker participation, midweek opportunities, and flyer distribution.

Ross Henikman, Director of Public Safety and Security: Q&A

Janis introduced Ross Henikman, praising his passion and effective work since starting nearly four months ago. Ross shared his Seattle roots and 20-year Anchorage law enforcement career, emphasizing a strategic, relationship-focused approach to market safety. He highlighted partnerships with SPD, other agencies, and security peers to create a safe environment encouraging visitation and spending.

Heather Pihl proposed establishing a mini SPD precinct at the market; Ross acknowledged ongoing productive discussions with SPD commanders and supported restoring close relationships, including informal officer interactions. Heather also raised safety concerns at Victor Steinberg Park; Ross agreed on the importance of collaboration among park rangers, security, and SPD.

Austin Godwin asked about immediate challenges beyond the World Cup; Ross prioritized relationship building with SPD, Seattle Fire Department, and stakeholders, expressing confidence in managing upcoming events. Davin Stedman inquired about Ross's Alaskan background, leading to discussion on Seattle-Alaska ties. Christine Vaughan asked about security's role in noise enforcement; Ross clarified noise issues fall under SPD jurisdiction, emphasizing prudent resource use and strong SPD relationships.

Graham Marmion questioned market security's strategy regarding ICE interactions ahead of the World Cup. Ross explained his team developed a plan to assist vulnerable populations, emphasizing de-escalation and no anticipated ICE presence. He assured that if ICE appeared, security would verify identities, maintain safety, and not assist ICE in accessing secure areas.

Emily Pike asked about maintaining communication with security; Ross encouraged reporting concerns and noted tenant alerts as the primary communication method, with the Pike alert system being updated. Chris Scott inquired about Ross's anti-terrorism background; Ross described extensive detective experience in counter-drug and counter-terrorism investigations and building relationships with federal, state, and local agencies. Chris Weaver asked about security's liaison with mental health and social services; Ross praised de-escalation efforts, connecting individuals to services, distributing care packs,

and expressed intent to strengthen partnerships with social service agencies, balancing support with safety. The security team comprises about 25 members.

Cory Hutton raised concerns about emergency response access in the Pike Pine Market corridor and police bike team reinstatement. Ross expressed confidence in emergency access and noted ongoing efforts to improve collaboration with SPD, including bike team challenges.

Logo Color Vote

Janis transitioned to the logo design vote. Graham Marmion presented two options: one black background with white text and scaffolding imagery, the other green background with white text. Questions addressed black-and-white media use and voting process inclusivity. Janis confirmed the green logo would be primary, with black and white as secondary options, and that voting results would be implemented immediately. The vote favored the green logo as primary with black and white for print. Janis conducted the vote, resulting in 13 in favor, 3 opposed, and 4 abstentions. She then moved to PDA Council Committee Reports.

PDA Council Committee Reports

Christine Vaughan reported a slight downturn in commercial market percentage rent but an overall net positive of \$657,000, with summer events expected to improve outcomes. She highlighted collaboration with Seattle City Light on utility bill credits and a clean audit for New Market Front housing. Chris Scott noted upcoming summer events, including night markets and farmers markets. Gina Karaba added that one night market would coincide with a FIFA event, and Chris mentioned plans for FIFA watch parties with large screens. Janis updated on the Handbook Committee: the draft handbook is mostly complete, pending final review before sharing with ExCom for feedback and printing.

Engagement Committee & Open House Debrief

For the Engagement Committee, Emily Pike deferred to Graham Marmion and Austin Godwin. Austin recapped the successful inaugural open house with over 50 attendees, including new and renewing members. He praised planning, RSVP process, entertainment, catering, venue, and brochure distribution. Areas for

improvement included earlier notice, expanded outreach, more prizes, shorter calls to action, seating arrangements, and fixed busker pay. Budget slightly exceeded \$4,000, pending security cost clarification. Heather Pihl encouraged prioritizing new member support, praised food and entertainment, but noted sound issues and lengthy remarks. She stressed involving more constituency and executive committee members as training for future representatives. Austin and Davin Stedman expressed enthusiasm for continuing and expanding such events. Jonathan Berner moved to repeat the event in February 2027, seconded by Emily Pike. Discussion focused on holding the event, budget considerations, and potential venue changes. The motion passed with 13 in favor, none opposed, and 3 abstentions.

Graham Marmion introduced proposed process improvements for General Assembly meetings based on a hybrid meeting survey. Recommendations included meeting orientation scripts, consistent microphone use, a Zoom participation guide, a Robert's Rules cheat sheet, and voting alternatives for remote attendees. Voting on these proposals will occur at the next General Assembly.

Heather Pihl cautioned against over-intellectualizing procedures, emphasizing clear verbal guidance. Austin Godwin, Chris Scott, Christine Vaughan, and Jonathan Berner expressed support for formalizing structure while maintaining accessibility and a human touch. Suggestions included renaming "public comment" to "non-agenda comment." Notification processes were confirmed to include personal emails.

Historical Commission Update

Janis transitioned to the Historical Commission update, led by Austin Godwin. He summarized approvals of ownership transfers, temporary outdoor seating pilots, Pike Place Market Merchants Association occupancy, access management pilots for FIFA, and design updates for various vendors. The Commission awaits legal review on Victor Steinberg Park guidelines and noted Parks Department non-compliance on totem pole installations, requesting updates and applications.

Public Comment

Janis moved to extend the meeting by five minutes for public comments.

Skip Knox expressed disappointment that a prior topic (“Black and green versus whatever”) was not on the agenda and introduced a motion to rename the Executive Committee to the Operations Committee, seconded by Graham Marmion. He emphasized the need for broader member input and inclusive communication.

Jonathan Berner noted the unusual timing for motions during public comment; Christine Vaughan agreed it was appropriate given no new business on the agenda. The motion will be voted on at the April General Assembly with proper notice.

David Stedman raised concerns about declining Canadian visitors, describing an upcoming June 20th event, Canadian Music Nights Part 1, during the World Cup to reconnect with Canadian patrons through music and discounted tickets.

Christine Vaughan acknowledged the late hour but confirmed the motion’s April agenda placement. Janis moved to extend the meeting until 8:30 p.m., approved without opposition.

Emily Pike announced Daffodil Day on Friday, with preschool children distributing flowers at Market Commons to encourage foot traffic.

Zana reported ongoing noise disturbances from the Alibi Room club, describing difficulties in communication and inconsistent noise levels, particularly excessive bass, requesting better mitigation and accountability.

Chris Scott criticized the new logo as austere and sterile, suggesting future reconsideration. Davin Stedman offered to connect the group with a skilled graphic designer battling brain cancer to help improve the logo as a meaningful legacy project.

Closing

Janis thanked participants for their engagement, expressed excitement about the new logo and committee progress, encouraged committee sign-ups, and concluded the meeting at 8:30 p.m.