

Constituency General Assembly DRAFT minutes
February 14, 2018

Attendance: Chris Scott, Mark Brady, David Ott, Mary Bacarella, Ali Mowry, Sebastian Folley, Peter Bassiri, Virginia Dolan, Molly Kirk, Joan Paulson, Jonny Hahn, Gloria Skouge, Nick Setten, Bob Messina, Deborah Boone, Gary Boone, Brian Fetty, Lori Brankey

Chris Scott opened the meeting.

Presentation on Daystall rule changes

Molly Kirk Daystall Program Coordinator. Brought copies of proposals. She reviewed the process. On March 13, the Programs Committee goes into closed session to discuss the proposal. On March 29 the full PDA Council will vote.

Joan Paulson provided some history and suggested they include a map of the historic district noting where the daystalls are located. Molly said that the current cycle of proposals had ended but recommended that Joan submit the suggestion the next time.

Mary ___ suggested a Native artist group for exhibition.

Next guest: new PDA Director Mary Bacarella

Nick asked Mary what has been the greatest learning curve for her. Mary answered: learning about how the Market runs, who are all the groups, and about all the construction that is going on around the Market.

Joan asked Mary if anyone had shown her maps of the historical district and of the urban renewal area. Mary said that she had seen the map of the district but not the renewal area. Joan said that the Market is part of a larger area and reviewed issues she was concerned about.

? welcomed Mary.

Chris cited Article IV of the PDA Charter, in the second to last paragraph, where it says that, "The PDA shall provide a structure. within which all public agencies, private groups, organizations, and individuals whose concerns and interests relate to the preservation of Seattle's Public Market area may work together to accomplish the above purposes and goals," and pointed out that there is no such group. He said he had proposed a round table of stakeholders. He said that it isn't being done and needs to be done. He said at tonight's Executive Committee meeting that there needs to be an audit of the Pike Place Market Merchants Association. There are no elections posted, no meetings posted. Chris updated on the search to find an office for the Constituency. Bohemian Massage is leaving, so that may be a possibility.

The meeting was next opened for public comment.

Hally asked about the discontinuation of the Orca pass program. She said that there a huge community need for public transportation help. She noted that many people don't qualify for the Orca Lift program, because they make just a little above the income limit. Hally encouraged restarting the Orca pass program. She also encouraged finding an office for the Constituency.

Jonny expressed three concerns: 1) escalating conflicts between drivers and pedestrians on Pike Place; he noted that a lot of drivers don't stop at the stop sign @ Pine/Pike Place. He wondered if the city needs to put up a bigger stop sign. He has noticed people that work at the Market going through the stop sign. He suggested that a notice go out to businesses to drive more safely. He also noted the two "yield to pedestrians" signs need to be bigger. He has been on that corner for so many years that he has noticed the driving becoming more aggressive. 2) proposed 14-story hotel proposed to replace Hahn building at the SE corner. He said it would have no parking; he was concerned about the impact of such a large building, and throwing a shadow over the entrance to the Market; counteracts the vibe of the Market.

Mary __ talked about Alex Jackson and the proposal to honor him through naming the new senior housing at the MarketFront after him. She asked for support in the renaming.

Open Discussion

Bob, who said he is a recent arrival to the Constituency, said that he felt it was significant that the Constituency provides four members to the PDA Council. He said he thought it was important to get people involved in the Constituency so that there are enough members to serve on the PDA Council, citing the case of the Market Historical Commission, where some positions were slated to be eliminated because there was difficulty finding candidates.

Chris gave some additional background on the controversy concerning elimination of the MHC positions. He explained that Councilmember Nick Licata, on his way out, sought to add diversity to the Commission. He said nothing came of it.

Jonny asked if the Constituency could support saving the Hahn Building. Chris said that the Newmark representatives have been before the Constituency, but that he's made it clear to them that it is outside the Constituency's charter. Mary confirmed that the Hahn is outside the PDA's jurisdiction. Discussion ensued.

Nick said that Friends of the Market has also taken up the issue. Chris said that Friends of the Market is the organization is free from constraints whereas the Constituency is constrained in certain areas. The Constituency is not constrained from holding public forums but can't take a position.

Jonny said they are in the design process. He was at a public meeting last week where the room was packed with people opposing the demolition. Jonny sent every member of the Council today to ask them to legislate it so that a building of this scale couldn't be built there.

Chris reminded Jonny that the Constituency's elections are coming up in July and encouraged

him to run for a position.

Peter_ said there seems to be a lack of a social platform where things like this proposed 14 story hotel could be discussed.

Chris expressed the hope that a social platform could be established once the Constituency has an office and staffing. He suggested signing up for the Friends of the Market newsletter.

Peter asked what is happening to find an office for the Constituency. Chris agreed that there has been a problem getting space. Mary said they are working on it. Peter said having space is a critical element.

Deborah said there are a lot of issues for merchants that should be on the table: how the Market works, how to plan for cycles in the Market.

Chris said he asked at the PDA Exec Council today for a full audit of the Merchants Association because there are a lot of red flags. He said that all the businesses and buskers deserve a viable merchants association that benefits them, not one or two individuals.

Joan said that the strength is from the bottom up, not from the top down. She spoke further to the history of the dance between these two approaches at the Market and outside it.

David said the Merchants Association used to provide all of those services.

7:03 p.m. meeting adjourned.