

**Pike Place Market Constituency
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20th, 2025**

Attendance:

In person:

Jonathan Berner
Chris Scott
Christine Vaughan
Gina Karaba
Erik Pihl
Heather Pihl
Janis Jordan
Austin Godwin
Bob Braun
Graham Marmion

Online:

Emma Mulanix
Joan Paulson
Alex Rasmussen
Bob Messina

Opening

Bob Braun called the meeting to order about five minutes late and proceeded with agenda and minutes approval, noting the minutes would be posted online soon. No objections were raised.

Public Comment

Bob Messina opened public comment by raising concerns about vote counting efficiency during elections at General Assembly meetings. He suggested placing contentious elections early and inquired about using Election Runner software for live, remote voting. Braun confirmed Election Runner is used at conventions with QR codes but was uncertain about its suitability here. Messina noted the upcoming election would allow private legal voting, which Braun clarified involved paper ballots deposited in a box.

Upcoming Meetings for December

Alex Rasmussen noted the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee meeting would be skipped next month, potentially freeing time for candidate forums and voting. Christine Vaughan confirmed the FAM meeting was also likely canceled. Jonathan Berner added that committee reports could be delayed if needed and highlighted ongoing efforts by the engagement committee to improve processes, including online voting enhancements like Election Runner, inviting Messina to participate.

Budget Updates

Braun requested PDA reports. Christine Vaughan reported the PDA had refinanced 2015 bonds at a lower interest rate, saving about \$1.09 million and reducing reserve requirements. The new budget projected a 17% net profit, slightly higher than the previous year. Braun and Vaughan discussed accounting details related to depreciation and net profit.

Chris Scott raised concerns that a \$110,000 resolution passed during the shutdown to provide funds directly to five families and social service agencies had not yet been disbursed due to grant processing delays by the Foundation. Vaughan explained that legal and administrative processes complicated timely distribution but suggested the PDA might donate funds directly if necessary. The executive committee is expected to review the issue in December or January. Braun recommended waiting to see how the situation develops but emphasized advocating for prompt resolution.

Unfinished Business

Regarding unfinished business, Braun noted no update on the open house beyond the recent meeting and asked Janis Jordan about the website. Jordan reported IT staff had been traveling but would resume work soon, aiming to have the site ready by the election. Vaughan confirmed the FAM meeting cancellation. Braun introduced the draft 2026 calendar prepared by the Secretary for consideration. Janis Jordan shared relevant dates in the chat and offered to read them aloud if needed. Braun proposed adopting the calendar pending confirmation at the next membership meeting, suggesting it be added to the agenda as drafted and remain subject to review.

Potential Guest Speakers & Parliamentarian Discussion

Jordan offered to ask Rachel and EJ about a speaker list during an upcoming meeting. Braun supported sharing the calendar with them once adopted and filling speaker slots later. Jordan proposed inviting partners and stakeholders, such as faculty farmers and Friends of the Market, to future meetings to foster collaboration. Braun

endorsed this, suggesting invited guests could participate in General Assembly meetings while keeping plans flexible.

Alex Rasmussen supported inviting Friends of the Market and recalled discussions about reaching out to mayoral candidate Katie Wilson, noting Janis and Graham had worked on her campaign. He suggested inviting her to a constituency meeting to share her vision. Braun called this idea “marvelous.” Vaughan raised the idea of an open house, which Jordan offered to explore. Braun advised considering these ideas further before formalizing them.

Rasmussen acknowledged organizing such events would be a process and noted interest in hearing from Wilson in person. Scott cautioned the open house schedule was tentative due to Wilson’s transition period and potential January busyness. Braun suggested simply asking about availability and adjusting plans accordingly.

Heather Pihl mentioned Friends of the Market would present to the Market Historical Commission in January on Big Flakes history and function and had offered to present to the PDA Council as well. She recommended scheduling a similar presentation for the General Assembly by February to maintain momentum. Braun agreed to incorporate these ideas into the calendar.

Graham Marmion proposed inviting a parliamentarian for training, possibly as a special meeting or for the executive committee only, noting funding might be required. Jordan confirmed a budget was available. Vaughan supported the idea, suggesting the training could benefit the entire assembly.

Chris Scott asked if contact information for a parliamentarian was available; Vaughan said it could be obtained easily. Messina recounted past experiences with a parliamentarian during bylaw reviews, cautioning that strict adherence to Robert’s Rules was unnecessary since the organization’s bylaws take precedence and the group follows Robert’s Rules only in spirit. He expressed concern that rigid enforcement could hinder the organization.

Braun noted Robert’s Rules is only one parliamentary method and emphasized the organization should control its own process rather than be bound by any single set of rules. Jordan suggested sending a few people to parliamentarian training to adapt the knowledge for market-focused constituency training.

Erik Pihl recommended inviting a consultant experienced in running community meetings to provide a brief (about 15 minutes) presentation at a General Assembly meeting. He emphasized good meeting practices—orderly recognition and maintaining a good record—over strict parliamentary procedure and proposed a simple one-page guideline to improve meeting discipline and ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak.

Jonathan Berner expressed enthusiasm for learning more about parliamentary procedure, suggesting that even if not all aspects are adopted, gaining knowledge would be beneficial. Scott noted parliamentary procedure would be included in the handbook and proposed providing an overview of different systems beyond Robert's Rules to explore alternatives. Braun agreed to wait and see what the handbook states before deciding. Marmion mentioned he was taking notes for the meeting feedback survey and encouraged participants to contribute.

Closing

Braun moved to confirm the agenda for the next meeting. Jordan outlined the revised agenda, including three announcements: the Engagement Committee meeting on December 9th, a call for questions for Director Chao ahead of the December General Assembly, and the cancellation of SPPP and FAM for December. Agenda items for December included a special election placed before guest speakers, committee reports, public comments, and adjournment, with informal public comments accepted throughout.

Braun requested the agenda clarify that meeting times, including adjournment, are flexible to avoid interruptions. Scott referenced bylaws specifying two-hour meetings but suggested flexibility if needed. Braun agreed to add a note that times are variable and meetings could extend beyond two hours if necessary. He invited executive committee members to review and comment on the agenda before finalization. Braun adjourned the meeting, wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving.