

September 28, 2023
Pike Place Market Constituency
Executive Committee Meeting Draft Minutes
6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Adora Lopez, Bob Braun, Bob Messina, Joan Paulson, Heather Pihl, Nick Setten, Chris Scott, Jonathan Berner, Emily Pike, Craig ____, Gina Karaba, Kris ____, Alex Rasmussen, John _____

Bob Braun opened the meeting at 6:44 p.m. due to the previous meeting that had run over. He said that Adora would be leaving and requested that he run the meeting.

Agenda approved by acclimation.

Minutes Approval: March 29, 2018, August 31, 2023.

Heather Pihl explained that due to technical problems, minutes were not yet posted. Bob Braun said they would be reviewed at the next meeting instead.

Public Comment:

Chris Scott said he would like to start a dialog about restarting the Pike Place Merchants Association. He explained that when the last person who ran it died, there was a discussion about reinventing or reviving the Merchants Association. He said that the Merchants Association used to sponsor street festivals at the Market and also provided insurance, in addition to other services for both brick and mortar stores and also crafters. In the PDA Charter, it says that the PDA is supposed to collect dues from brick and mortar businesses to fund the Association. He wasn't sure about the crafters. He said the PDA hasn't been collecting dues so there are no funds for the Association to run on.

Adora Lopez asked how long the Merchants Association was active. Chris explained that the Merchants Association existed since the PDA Charter (PDA was created). He said to look up the last street festival to determine when the Association was last active.

Master Plan Update:

Nick Setten provided the update. He said the topic discussed today was the Market as a small business hub. There will be a retreat on October 26, to which everyone is invited. There are a lot of good conversations; people are concerned about economic vitality of the Market in the future. He has been disappointed not hearing about how the existing organizations and collaborations in the Market are achieving that already. PDA advised to consider three roles for itself in supporting small businesses - incubating small

businesses, accelerating small businesses, and sustaining legacy businesses. Important upcoming dates - Oct. 18, 4:30 p.m., PDA Exec Committee meeting - discussion of Market as the downtown anchor; Oct. 16, 1 pm., retreat at Perkins Coie office. He emphasized attending the retreat in person.

Bob Messina asked about the October 26 retreat. He recalled that last year, they didn't allow public comment at the beginning but they did at the end. Nick said he expected that it would be the same as the last time.

Speaker Invitations:

Bob said it was suggested that people from PDA be invited. Bob said he and Bruce are taking suggestions at service@pikeplacemarketconstituency.org on whom should be invited. Nick suggested Juan Medina, who is John Turnbull's successor, Amy Wallsmith, Mary Bacarella, new craft and farm team, Market Historical Commission, Market Foundation.

Old Business:

Bob addressed the earlier request for information on the Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act. He consulted Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) about it, and they suggested resources to him. Bob said the documents are posted on the Constituency website currently. He said he would ask MRSC about using Slack. Jonathan said from what he has read recently about it, WA state law says boards can use Slack can be used for certain administrative tasks such as scheduling meetings, but not conduct general business. He suggested that Slack would allow the board to put together an emergency meeting quickly. Bob said he would ask the MRSC about Slack. There was a further discussion about using the technology and meeting the Open Public Meetings Act.

New Business

Jonathan reminded the Committee that it was decided earlier to spend some time reading the bylaws. Nick suggested a bylaws review for 15 minutes on the next two Executive Committee meeting agendas during Old Business.

Alex Rasmussen reminded the Committee about looking into making the Constituency website visible on Google, and creating an online signup for membership on the website. There was a discussion about online signup. Adora explained that there were roadblocks with the PDA. Alex said he would look further into it.

PDA Committee Reports

Nick reported that there haven't been any meetings since he reported on the Finance Committee at last week's Constituency General Assembly meeting.

Bob Messina said he made comments at the Finance Asset Committee about the Arcade floor repair . He said Brady Morrison from the PDA explained that the tiles that have donors' names on them, have been cracked from heavy pallet carts wheeled over them. Now it is more expensive to replace them than they cost originally. The tiles need to be replaced. They will need to find a solution with the Market Foundation. Also, the windows on the west side of the Leland still have to be painted. Brady said it's time to use modern materials on the windows. Bob said the MHC will be hearing more about it. The PDA came to the MHC meeting last week and it was a positive meeting.

Chris said that the PDA also brought up digitizing all the plans for the Market. He gave some history on the tiles.

Gina Karaba asked when the bricks on Pike Place will be fixed. Discussion ensued. Bob Messina said one of the new MHC members also brought up the bricks, but to the PDA. The PDA explained that the City has the jurisdiction over replacement. Mithun has mentioned it in the Master Plan on one of their slides, that explained SDOT has jurisdiction.

Jonathan asked if the Constituency can agitate for repair of the bricks. Chris explained that the Constituency can meet with Councilmembers and lobby City Council. Heather Pihl explained that MHC staff would have approved the removal of the bricks, and encouraged the Constituency officers to contact her to find out why the bricks have not been replaced.

Jonathan asked about next steps for having the Constituency push for repair of the bricks on Pike Place and side streets. Bob Braun explained that it would need to be brought up at a General Assembly meeting, because per the Bylaws, the Executive Committee can't make decisions on behalf of the Constituency.

Nick suggested that the Constituency check with Mary Bacarella about the PDA's efforts to get the bricks replaced. He suggested putting together a subcommittee to address the bricks.

Gina said she would like to have the outside slabs covered. She would like to lobby for that. Chris suggested having Juan from the PDA come to a Constituency meeting to address it. He said heating for crafters is in the winter, too. Gina said she has looked into heating outside restaurants. Heat from above is wasted, but heat from light bulbs below warms people. Heather asked if there's a way to install a (portable) light fixture underneath now. Gina said it would be the most low cost way to do it. Gina spoke further to wind that comes through the dog leg, and also in the MarketFront covered

plaza.

Public Comment

Chris suggested changing the Bylaws to allow membership to expire on the date of registry, not the next April 30.

John said he passed out the flyers about the survey last week that had the QR code on it. He said there were two that knew what it was about. He printed off over a hundred and has none left. He went out a second time. One of the comments he received were that there hasn't been a lot of compromise on issues. Nick encouraged John to bring up his comments and feedback at a PDA Council meeting.

Joan Paulson expressed a concern about the PDA's passing of a resolution to have more participation on the Executive Committee, that it would mean changing the PDA Charter. She referenced the PDA Retreat last year, at which changing the PDA Charter was discussed. She said "highest and best use" is still on the table in the Master Plan. She said what is special about this market is that it is a public market. Regarding the trolley, there is a proposal from Jack Whisner to have a trackless trolley on First. That had been operational but was removed in order to create demand for this expensive trolley.

Chris said changes to the Charter would have to have the Constituency vote on them.

There was a further discussion about talking to Mary Bacarella about fixing the bricks. Nick suggested waiting until there was a mandate from the General Assembly. Jonathan said he would ask Mary about the background.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.