

April 26, 2018
Constituency Executive Committee draft minutes
6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Jerry Baroh, Joan Paulson, David Ghoddousi, Nick Setten, Chris Scott, Mark Brady, Peter Bassiri, Betty Halfon

Jerry called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Minutes

No minutes were available for review.

Old Business

Nick said he and Chris went to UW surplus store to see if there was anything that could be used for the Constituency office. He took pictures so the Committee could see them.

Nick reported back from the Constituency meet and greet held the day before. There were six new signups. Some of the tenants expressed their concerns about tenants in the new building and opening windows. There is trepidation in contacting the PDA. There was a discussion about challenges in communicating with the PDA.

Chris talked about the role of the Constituency in acting as a liaison between the Market community and the PDA. Discussion ensued about the lack of a Merchants Association and what could be done about it. Nick said the Merchants Association used to help the PDA come up with a marketing plan. Chris said he hopes the Constituency will step out when it needs to do so, whenever there is something that needs to be corrected.

Jerry asked if there would be interest in forming a committee to discuss reforming the Merchants Association. Discussion ensued. Chris pointed out that it is part of the Constituency's public oversight and duty. There was discussion about reaching out to the tenants and offering to convey their concerns to the PDA. Peter spoke to the difficulty of getting business owners to work together. There was a concern about opening up individual Constituency members to liability for the organization.

Joan spoke to the history of the Constituency and the bylaws, and the difficulty of negotiating change for tenants.

There was further discussion of liability and insurance. Chris said this needs to be clarified. He believes that the PDA insurance covers the Constituency.

Nick suggested organizing a committee to look into the insurance question and liability. Betty moved to create a committee to find out if the Constituency has insurance coverage for directors and operations through the PDA, and what that looks like, and to look into the Constituency's registration as an organization with the state. Nick seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Betty talked about the history of the Merchants Association - activities and and past issues. She felt it was important to have a Merchants Association. There was a discussion about the current Merchants Association in its form, operated by Gary Goedecke.

Peter said with the regime change at the PDA, there is a chance to change the culture. He said the last regime was about "my way or the highway." There was hope expressed that the new Director would be more open. She has monthly times open to meet with the Market community.

Nick, Mark, Jerry and Chris volunteered for the committee. There was a discussion about meeting Mary on the following Monday.

Betty and Peter discussed the downturn in business. Peter said the marketing hasn't included input from the merchants. There are lots of visitors but not locals.

There was a discussion about the upcoming Constituency and PDA Council elections.

Chris said he will ask for \$2,000 from the PDA for office equipment, etc. He said that they will need to get plans and equipment approved by the Market Historical Commission.

The Committee discussed next steps and setting the agenda for the May General Assembly meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.