
Pike Place Public Market Constituency**General Assembly Special Meeting****Minutes - DRAFT****Monday, July 19, 2021, 6-8 pm***Held via phone and Zoom (see Addendum: Item #1)***Call to Order**

A Special Meeting of the Constituency of Pike Place Public Market General Assembly was called to order by Chair Adora Lopez on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 6:12 pm by Vice-Chair Haley Land.

Attendance

Those attending included:

Constituency Board Members Haley Land (Vice Chair); Bruce Rutledge (Secretary-Treasurer); PDA Reps: David Ghoddousi, Gordie McIntyre, Mark Brady, Nick Setten; Officers at Large: Joan Paulson (seven present, one absent, three vacant seats)

PDA corporate officials or employees Mary Bacarella (PDA ED); Christine Vaughan (MHC), PDA Council members: Ray Ishii, Paul Neal, Devin McComb, JJ McKay; Staff: Madison Bristol, Amy Wallsmith

Constituency General Members Lori Brankey, Sriram, Susan Ghoddousi. Mary Ghoddoussi, Ann Huston, Gail Coupal, Charles (last name?), Joe Read, Mark Wildhood, Bob Messina, Betty Halfon, Jerry Baroh, Susanne Keller, Patrick Kerr, Raymond Waite, John Spitzer, Karl Andersson, Skip Knox, Steven Hamilton, Adora Lopez, Jamie Campbell, Sabastian Torrey, Raluca Pop, Bill Downs, Ruth Danner, Kris Sacksteder, Russell Monroe

Opening Remarks from Chair

Haley says, "Thank you for caring enough to participate in this meeting. Through a series of unexpected turns, I became the accidental and temporary Chair of the Elections Committee, and I am Chairing this meeting.

"Some brief background: The Constituency belongs to anyone over 16 who pays their dues of \$1. It was conceived not to be an exclusive club but a membership of all people passionate about the Market, and I presume that to mean passionate about the Market's betterment. For a variety of reasons, this has not been an easy election. Membership has more than doubled, meetings have been online, and when it was proposed that the July election have an online component, it was vigorously resisted in some corners and applauded in others, but we have forged ahead. A little over a week ago, Paul Neal, a PDA Council member and a Constituency Member who had signed up a sizable number of new members discovered that 17 of the members he had registered were not on the membership list. He spoke about the matter at a PDA subcommittee meeting and the resolution was made and moved to the full PDA

Council to conduct an audit of the Constituency membership. That vote has not yet occurred, but if it passes, it will be to check for completeness and accuracy of our list. And this is where I enter the story. My mission as the accidental Chair has been straight-forward from the beginning, and that is to deliver a clean, transparent, fair, and respected election. The notion of an audit that alters the number of people who can vote and possibly alters an election outcome troubles me so much that I contacted several PDA Council members and as a result, I feel almost certain the full Council will vote to audit our membership list, which they have the right to do. On Friday, I wrote to all of our Constituency about this and told them my recommendation is to delay the election until after the audit. I agree that delaying the election might sew confusion and even anger, stopping so much that has been set in motion with practically no notice, but having the election and then having the audit immediately afterwards poses the danger of having people questioning the election if the vote is close, or even if turnout is high. Both conditions are possible, and I believe it is smarter to put the audit behind us, and by doing so, protect the Constituency, the election, and the candidates, all of which could become easy victims of rumors and deliberate, destructive talk. I suggested this to the Constituency officers and only one agreed with me. The others supported moving ahead with the election. And I stepped back.

“But this is an organization where members have as much power as officers, and 11 members, one more than required, have come forward requesting today’s meeting to discuss postponing the election. And that’s why we’re here.

“So far, since I’ve been having meetings, they have been cordial discussions for the last four weeks, even when there’s disagreement, and tonight I insist on that continuing. I know there’s passionate and sometimes negative talk in the last days so I will say that as the chair, I insist that all comments be directed toward me. Nothing to the other members. The only time you can say the word “you” is to me. If I hear comments that are personal, profane, nasty, or show disrespect, I will stop that speaker and decide whether to move on to the next speaker. And sometimes I will do that if I feel it meets that criteria.

“Finally, I hope you will listen to each other openly and thoughtfully and have hope in your hearts that everyone has good will toward each other and that part of our mission here tonight is to search for areas of common ground.

“So, I’m going to ask a question, does anyone here object to these standards of decorum?”

“Hearing no objection ... The other part of my statement is to come from the Secretary-Treasurer, Bruce Rutledge, who will give us an update to better frame tonight’s discussion.”

Bruce says, “Thanks, Haley, and just before my comments, two members, Lori and Sriram, have joined us during your comments. I took over as Secretary-Treasurer of the Constituency in late May. I believe it was May 27th or somewhere near there. I was selected to take over leading up to the election and later that month was assigned management of the membership list, and have been doing it in good faith since then.

“It was brought to our attention that 17 members had gone missing, and we got the copies from the PDA Office and have put them into the roster. As of this morning, another Constituency member noticed one more missing membership which has been included in the new roster as of just a couple of hours ago, which I will pass on to everyone who needs to see it, and we’ve tried as much as possible to fix emails. There are some obvious typos that were easy to fix. From some of the emails that have gone out, we see that we have about 28 bounce backs which is roughly 5% of our new membership. Some of them were easy to fix. It seems like my finger may have slipped and it’s a typo. Others are more art than science. We’ve tried, but to get to 100% I think it would really take phone calls and a little bit of sleuthing.

“That said, I think the list, despite the bounce-backs that have not been fixed, is clean, and to my knowledge we aren’t missing any other members. So that’s where we are at present.”

Haley asks if some of these bounce-backs go back beyond the mail-out where we got 33 bounce-backs.

Bruce says he is not sure.

Nick says that having bounce-backs from our email list is not a new issue that’s just come up.

Haley asks if Nick is referring to bounce-backs that might have occurred when we send out a newsletter or notices of meetings?

Nick says that’s right.

Gordie says, “When we first published as complete a list as we could, we sent it to Regal Associates, and they needed to send the notice out to the membership regarding a Special Executive Committee meeting that we had last week. When she did that, she got 33 bounce-backs. She sent those back to Bruce and I. Of the 33, we corrected 24 of them.”

Haley asks if there have been complaints throughout the last 12 months of people having not received notices and the newsletter?

Bruce says yes.

Haley asks if this issue has been brought up in a number of the general membership meetings, executive committee meetings, and other gatherings.

Nick says that when members haven’t gotten communications in the past, by and large, it has required fixing up as those are brought to our attention, but he says there were occasions when lack of receiving an email was brought up at meetings and in public forums.

Haley moves the meeting into public comment.

Public Comment

Bob Messina requests more information about the original complaint from the PDA member about 17 missing members that were not listed.

Gordie says that Paul Neal said that he had collected 17 registration cards that he gave to Mary. When Mary gave Gordie a box-load of cards those 17 were not included in them. He collected 55 registrations from her and another six on the side. He says he did not get those 17.

He continues, "As soon as we found out those 17 were missing, we went to Mary. Mary provided the photocopies of the missing 17 to Haley. I brought them down to Bruce, and we immediately entered them into the record."

Mary Bacarella says she gave all 72 registration to Gordie and she has a copy of all 72. Mary says she checked them and someone else in her department checked them as they made copies. She says she gave them to Gordie on June 16th. He had all 72. "What happened after that, I can only imagine," she says. "Something fell out or whatever. I don't know. I don't feel that it's anything malicious."

Mark Brady says that every time the Constituency had a complaint filed, "we've acted on it and done our damndest to correct it, and Haley can attest that he was the one who brought those 17 down and they were immediately inputted into our system before the election."

Haley confirms that he did bring the 17 copies to the Constituency office. They were not originals.

Joe Read says, "As someone whose name was on the office door of the Constituency to help take care of the election and count the votes, I've got to say that there was never a time when we went through a crisis like this. I'll be glad to see it come to a resolution. I have no doubt of the integrity of the last election. I think we all want to make sure that that continues."

David Ghoddousi says that providing a receipt of how many members, with their names, and how much money was turned in for each individual is called "checks and balances." Handing an envelope to somebody and saying "here you go" is not checks and balances. When an auditor comes, they're going to say, "Where's the receipt?" There's no receipt and so that process needs to be finetuned for the future.

Christine Vaughan says, "I think there have been sporadic problems in the voting process over a number of years. I know that one year, when I arrived to vote I was told that I was not on the list. I went home and found the cancelled check, which proved that indeed I had paid my dues in a timely fashion and should have been allowed to vote. When you asked earlier if there were people who did not receive notices, during the early part of the year when I got on the email list, the mailing of notices of the meetings often arrived the day after the meeting. So, there have been communication problems, but it gives us an opportunity we've never had before to address these long-standing problems in terms of the membership list and people denied a ballot when they were legitimately entitled to one. To me, this is an opportunity."

Skip Knox says, "In the past couple of years I've been really bothered by the need for a thorough evaluation of how certain processes are carried out, especially at the elections, and last year when I went to vote, I was handed a pre-marked ballot, which is clearly electioneering. That sort of thing puts the whole process into question. Had that particular incident resulted in a change of four votes, there

would have been a different effect on the position of PDA representative. It would have been a tie vote, necessitating another election. I waited until now to bring that up because it is emblematic of the lack of keeping track of where we are and where we aren't."

Colleen Bowman responds to Mark Brady's comment: "You might be surprised to hear that Paul Neal copied his 17 membership forms that he turned in. That might seem unusual, but the reason Paul did that was because the year prior he went to the membership table to vote. I was there, as well, and he was turned away. I was told by the election administrator who I was relieving for lunch, that if there were any questions about whether a membership was valid, I should give them a provisional ballot. I was attempting to give Paul a provisional ballot when the member volunteering with me said, 'No. You are not allowed to give them a provisional ballot.' So, the idea that there have been five provisional ballots per year might not be the whole story if, in fact, people were turned away when they should have gotten provisional ballots.

"Lastly, I'll say that there are 28 bounce-backs from when I sent the meeting notice for this meeting, so there are 28 email inaccuracies, currently.

"Two of the three candidates for the PDA Council seat are in favor of postponement of the audit and two of the three members of the elections committee are in favor of postponement for an audit. We've had several votes, recently, where the officers of the Executive Committee of the Constituency have not responded to the will of the Membership, and the reason I called this meeting tonight along with other members is because there are people who feel they are not welcome and that their voice is not being heard.

"Haley, I want to thank you for your leadership, and Bruce, and Nick, and all the other volunteers I'm forgetting to mention. There's been a tremendous effort, but I'll repeat what Patrice said when she made this motion, that, '... this effort for an audit must pick up where the volunteers left off. It only makes things more valid.'"

Jerry Baroh says that we have postponed an election until August before. "If we have everything right, let's go forward. If we don't, let's postpone and actually do it and have everything right, because I think everybody wants that."

Ruth Danner said, "Thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns. I am new to the Constituency and the PDA processes. I'm just a neighbor at Pike Place Market. I live there because of Pike Place Market and I'm just *really* disturbed by the tone that I have seen in the meetings that I've attended, and it's impossible for me to sort out – I mean, I know that volunteer service is a huge challenge. It's so difficult to make everybody happy. But I can't begin to understand what's going on here. But my gut concern is ... I come down on the side of cancelling or postponing the election for an audit, when/if the missing 17 members have been added to the list; if one more member has been added to the list. I don't even understand why you are still accepting new memberships the day before an election. It seems like you should have membership status for 30 days before you're allowed to vote, or some such thing. It seems like everybody is chasing their tails and it's a perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to -- what? – throw a wrench in the works if somebody would ever want to do that. Just because it's too

complicated. I hope that the things that have been fixed are sufficient to go forward with the election, and I hope I understand what you all are doing here pretty soon, because I am going to keep watching until I do. Thanks.”

Haley clarifies that there haven't been new memberships added. What's happened is that memberships were discovered that should have been added in the past. He also adds that since he has been running the meetings, the tone has been very good. It's been productive and polite. He acknowledges that earlier in the year there were some donnybrooks, but the organization has shown recently that it can conduct civil meetings.

Danner asks a follow-up question: “You have to be a member for a year before you can be a candidate. If there is a delay in the vote, are you going to allow new people to qualify? I just hate the idea of gamesmanship in order to allow someone who is more favorable to one side or the other onto the ballot. Is this gamesmanship?”

After no new comments arise, Haley moves the meeting to new business.

New Business

Haley says that under new business we have Considerations Regarding the Pending Audit of the 2021 Constituency Election.

Motion 071921-- Skip moves that the Constituency General Assembly on this date entertain a postponement of the election to allow an audit to occur prior to the election as far back as the auditor sees fit. And that the audit be not confined to the Constituency and the Council but be assigned to a third party with unimpeachable credentials such as a former City Council member or judge.

David & Russell second at the same time.

Discussion

Christine asks for clarification as to whether the second part of the audit that is recommended in the motion encompasses the election itself or only the membership list.

Skip replies: “The intent is to cast the net as far and wide as the audit committee finds necessary to find out the facts of past elections and how we've gotten up to this election. so yes, it's a wide, broad charter for this committee or whatever it might be called – audit group --- to embark on without any impediments to get at the facts and let people know what's happened and suggest that those things that have happened not be set in motion again.”

Haley asks for clarification too. If that motion passes, it is broader than perhaps some people on the Council have suggested they want to go. He said “What I've heard is an audit of the membership list.”

Skip replies: “The motion is predicated in such a way that it's not going to be hamstrung by anything the PDA does or doesn't do or what the Constituency does or doesn't do. Whoever is appointed to do the audit should have absolutely no hands tied to be able to go to wherever the facts take them to

get an accurate understanding and assessment of past elections, if necessary, and the run-up to this election.”

Haley asks if the PDA Council is funding the audit, will that limit the scope of the audit?

Skip replies: “I don’t think so. The Constituency can call for its own audit on its own dime and on its own time. If the policy-making body, the Council, disagrees with the policy making body or the membership of the Constituency, then there can be two audits. I don’t care if there’s four audits as long as the Constituency and the PDA get at it and get at the facts and let everybody know what has happened and what shouldn’t happen again.”

Joe Read comments: “If we’re doing band-aids and splints and everything on this election, it’s going to look, to a lot of people, like we don’t want it to look ... like it’s an election being fixed.”

Bob Messina adds: I would like to suggest...that this motion may be a little too broad. For example, between now and August, if the elections are delayed until August, it doesn’t necessarily mean between now and August you’re going to have an auditor or auditing body selected and set up and they can actually get that done before the delayed August election. It’s not clear if the original scope was just to do a membership audit. I would prefer to keep to that level to make it easier for people to get their mind around what has been asked for. And secondly, I suggest that these two ideas of an audit and then delaying the election be divided into two motions and two votes. So, should there be an audit, and I would say ‘at some point.’ That doesn’t have to be done between now and August. That puts tremendous strain on everyone... If you want to delay the elections, let’s vote. And break them into two votes because, isn’t there some rule about you can’t have two issues in one vote?”

Mark Brady asserts that the current motion doesn’t say that we stop the election. He says that limiting that third party to a very small group of people is going to be a drawn out process. He also voices concern that if his term ends and there is no election, the PDA Council might fill his seat. He expresses support for an audit while allowing the election to take place as scheduled.

Skip asks Bruce to reread the motion and then comments that the words that are operable are “such as.” He says it doesn’t matter who is appointed it just needs to be someone who is a credible, honest public servant.

Christine says the motion indicates that the auditor would have the ability to decide how far the audit had to go. So if the membership was all right, then perhaps that would be the end of the audit. She adds: “I personally think it would make some degree of sense that the auditor would stay with the process and keep going forward and keep an eye on how the votes are cast and how ElectionRunner works and how the election is conducted. Whether the auditor decides to go back kind of depends on what the auditor finds when the auditor looks at the membership list and the events of this election ... this election as it stands now with the slate of officers and this list of voters. It should be relatively easy to draw a red line under anyone who was registered in time and we already know who the slate is. I would offer that as a friendly amendment to the maker and the seconder of the motion.”

Knox approves the friendly amendment as do seconders Russell and David.

Christine clarifies that the friendly amendment is really about freezing the slate as it would have been on July 20th.

Bruce reads the friendly amendment: **“To freeze the membership and freeze the slate of candidates for the election as of July 20th along with a postponement of the election.”**

Christine says that the wording sounds accurate, and it addresses the concerns that there is an attempt to swell the voting for the benefit of one candidate or another and to enforce voting rights so that only those with a year’s membership as of July 20 can vote.

David asks what the deadline for the audit will be.

Skip says, “I agree that there should be a deadline. The composition of the committee should be people who can read and write English and have two eyes and two ears, but we should leave the procedures and composition of the committee up to a cooperative effort on the part of the PDA Council and the Executive Committee to come to a conclusion rapidly.”

He calls for the question on the motion.

Bruce reads the motion and the friendly amendment.

Skip clarifies that while Bruce read “auditor” in the motion, his intent was for it to be “auditors.”

Once people agree to the edit, Bruce rereads the motion:

Motion 071921-- Skip moves that the Constituency General Assembly on this date entertain a postponement of the election to allow an audit to occur prior to the election as far back as the auditors see fit. And that the audit be not confined to the Constituency and the Council but be assigned to a third party with unimpeachable credentials such as a former City Council member or judge, with the friendly amendment to freeze the membership and freeze the slate of candidates as they should have been as of July 20, 2021.

Roll call is taken.

The motion passes 24-12.

Mark Brady introduces a motion that current Constituency officers stay in place until they are replaced by an election.

Skip seconds.

Colleen says we cannot bind the hands of the PDA.

David agrees with Colleen.

Nick reads Article 4, Section 8 of the Constituency Bylaws: “The officers shall be elected by ballot at a Constituency meeting and shall serve until their successors are elected. In case of a vacancy, officers shall be appointed by a majority of the Constituency present and voting at its next regularly scheduled meeting.”

JJ McKay says: "The way the system works is that the Constituency is considered a smaller semi-independent subset of the PDA. They are two separate organizations ruled by two separate bylaws, and the Constituency's role is to do a very limited amount of input into the PDA. So it could vote, but the vote would have absolutely no authority over the PDA or have any impacts on their bylaws from a legal point of view.

Mark rescinds his motion and asks Haley if he will stay on as Vice-Chair now that the election is delayed.

Haley says he is committed to stay in his position until the election has been completed.

Mark says we don't have a chair and he is sure there will be write-in votes for that position.

Skip reminds him that this special meeting can only discuss the topic provided in the meeting notice.

Colleen asks for verbal confirmation from all executive officers that the election has been postponed and no election table will be set up tomorrow.

All present officers agree.

Skip presents a motion:

Motion 071921b -- I move that the election committee put out a notice to all Constituency members that the election has been postponed and to stay tuned for further information.

Colleen seconds, with a friendly amendment that Haley approves the language of the notice.

Roll call is taken.

The motion passes 24-2

Joe Read says: When we make changes to elections, there's bound to be some public blowback. We've got to remember, in the future, if at all possible, to avoid something like this."

Haley adjourns the meeting, thanking members for being respectful.

Meeting adjourns at 8:11pm.

Posted in draft online by Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Rutledge

Approval secured during Jan. 2022 GM meeting

This Addendum is intended to provide information of ongoing and recurring interest for the Public Record.

Addendum Item #1: PPM Constituency meetings routinely scheduled with the same Zoom meeting link and meeting ID, and dial-in option. Please feel free to add this information to your Contacts.

Topic: Constituency Executive Committee Meetings

Time: Dec 30, 2021 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82963087048>

Meeting ID: 829 6308 7048

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82963087048# US (Tacoma)

#6 will is the command to toggle callers between muted and unmuted.