

**Pike Place Market Constituency**  
**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**December 16th, 2025**

**Attendance:**

**Online:**

Christine Vaughan  
Elaine Spencer  
Yoko Eidsmoe  
Gregory Bell  
Chun Yu  
Bob Messina  
Emma Mulanix  
Daniel Heppner  
Haley Land  
Elisa Oksner  
Riley Avron  
Clayton Sasaki  
Gregory Bell

**In Person:**

Graham Marmion  
Alex Rusmussen  
Emily Pike  
Chris Scott  
Gina Karaba  
Jonathan Berner  
Rachel Ligtenberg  
Janis Jordan  
Bruce Rutledge  
EJ Griffin  
Cory Hutton  
Harrison Jerome  
Austin Schey (non member)  
Katie Trent  
Chris Weaver

Chris Eidsmoe  
Austin Godwin  
Eric Pihl  
Nick Setten  
Heather Pihl  
Karen Berner  
Johnny Hahn  
Scott Berkely

### Opening

At 6:16 PM, Jonathan Berner called the meeting to order and asked for objections to the agenda. Janis Jordan noted Director Chao's absence due to a family matter and that a new date would be scheduled, retaining advance questions. The minutes from the October 21st General Assembly were approved without objection.

Joan Paulson provided public comment expressing concerns about funding for food and the impact of historic flooding on farmers, emphasizing the need for early signals and resolutions to support affected farmers and address potential chemical inspections.

Executive Director Rachel Ligtenberg confirmed ongoing communication with farmers regarding emergency relief and safety net programs amid severe flooding. She shared updates on recent events, including a record-breaking Magic in the Market with a 31% increase in pedestrian visitors, the Figgy Pudding caroling competition raising over \$90,000 for the Senior Center Food Bank, and the return of the night market for locals. She also noted completion of the fifth community planning session on social services as part of the Master Plan.

### Election Discussion

Jonathan Berner addressed the vacancy on the PDA constituency seat following Nick Setten's resignation, thanked Nick for his service, outlined candidate eligibility, and announced Chris Scott's nomination. No further nominations were made.

Chris Scott introduced himself, highlighting 15 years as a Conservancy member, activism in the market, past officer roles, and participation in advisory committees and PDA meetings. In the candidate forum, Scott emphasized prioritizing constituency values aligned with the Master Plan and representing the constituency first. He expressed enthusiasm for community partnerships, particularly bringing culture and arts to enliven the market in summer, and referenced the Master Plan's five core values—trust,

authenticity, stewardship, community, and inclusion—as guiding principles.

Haley Land endorsed Scott as an engaged representative but expressed a desire for constituency reps to maintain healthy skepticism toward the PDA Council and its plans. She critiqued the Master Plan for conflicting values between supporting local farmers and attracting out-of-town visitors, which could marginalize traditional businesses and locals. Haley announced her intention to abstain from the vote as a wait-and-see approach while expressing future support.

Jonathan Berner moved to voting, outlining membership requirements and the hybrid voting process. He and Janis Jordan abstained to avoid conflicts of interest. Janis Jordan reported the results: Chris Scott received 24 votes, Haley Land 1, and 6 abstentions. The General Assembly confirmed Chris Scott as the new PDA Council Representative for the remainder of the term.

### PDA Council Reports

PDA Council Committee Reports followed. Alex Rasmussen praised recent market events, credited the marketing team for increased attendance, reported a clean 2024 audit, and introduced Ross Hennikman as the new Director of Safety and Security, with plans to invite him as a guest speaker. He described ongoing interviews with commercial businesses regarding street conditions, with a summary report forthcoming. Updates on the craft community included a new tenant, Tarot Crow, opening a metaphysical shop on December 23, and Mauricio's Sausage taking over a former meat vendor space.

Christine Vaughan reported that the Strategic Planning and Programs Committee and Finance and Asset Committee meetings were canceled in December due to budget passage and the holiday break. The Executive Committee met, and the full Council would meet on Thursday, with encouragement to listen to the Executive Director's year-end report.

### Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Jonathan Berner introduced ad hoc committees. Nick Setten explained that he and Chris Scott were developing a handbook to increase transparency and accessibility for executive committee members by compiling bylaws, resolutions, and key documents. The committee was on holiday hiatus but welcomed volunteers, especially for an FAQ section. Chris Scott invited members to submit FAQ questions. Nick highlighted a recent full-color brochure as part of communication improvements.

Emily Pike updated on the Engagement Committee's open house event, postponed twice and now scheduled for February 17th. The event aims to engage members and

non-members from the market community and nearby neighborhoods through games and food, without alcohol, to encourage involvement. Graham Marmion reported on the recently completed Process Improvement Survey, which received 38 responses, exceeding the target. Despite some emails being marked as spam, the survey provided useful feedback on meeting fairness, respect, and operational challenges, with suggestions for improvement. The hybrid meeting format was valued for accessibility. Graham expressed enthusiasm for using the data to develop actionable improvements for the January General Assembly.

Jonathan Berner praised the survey report and acknowledged volunteers. He encouraged members to contact Emily for event planning or Chris for handbook development. Christine Vaughan raised concerns about hybrid meeting technology, requesting the Engagement Committee explore better solutions. Graham Marmion confirmed the survey included technology recommendations, though some appeared to be vendor promotions. Bob Messina cautioned against survey fatigue, noting low response rates may reflect avoidance rather than apathy.

#### Market Historical Commission Updates

Austin Godwin provided Market Historical Commission updates. He introduced Bayana Kitchen, an Afro-Brazilian food business approved for the Farley Building, co-owned by Emmy Collins, offering food, cooking classes, and specialty grocery items with a sales cap to avoid competition. He also described Tarot Crow, a metaphysical retail shop opening December 23 in the Farley Building's Down Under area, selling vegan bath bombs, incense, candles, and tarot decks, with plans for events and author visits.

Austin mentioned temporary elevator work in the LaSalle building and approval of a temporary cooler for Maximilian Restaurant, to be discreetly placed during construction. He updated on the Market Front Plaza project, where architect Alex Shapley presented two design options focused on seating, planters, signage, art, and resolving water intrusion. Public comments emphasized planter leakage, food debris, shade, weather protection, and sustainable materials. The project is budgeted for 2026 with potential art opportunities.

Austin reported on a recent walk-through with SDOT and stakeholders regarding World Cup event safety measures, including use of historic fire trucks as barriers and special decals for business trucks. SDOT cited unclear state law and liability concerns for street closure signage despite recent legislation. Concerns were raised about enforcement, loading limits, and tenant frustration; discussions continue through the event in June.

Heather Pihl advised the PDA to consider diverse seating types for the Market

Front Plaza rather than uniform styles, noting temporary picnic tables are difficult to use. Gina Karaba responded that heavy picnic tables prevent being thrown off ledges and expressed a desire for accessible seating options, cautioning varied seating could pose safety risks.

Joan Paulson raised procedural concerns leading to her abstention from voting, noted upcoming visitor center staff changes, advocated for balanced public debates on complex issues, and highlighted a governance issue regarding authority over Pike Place Market, urging public discussion. Jonathan Berner requested Joan share relevant documentation. Nick Setten suggested the election guidelines Joan referenced might be a separate procedural document and offered to share it; Heather Pihl noted it is available online.

#### Upcoming Special Election Discussion

Janis Jordan inquired about a special election following Chris Scott's Executive Committee position change. Jonathan Berner confirmed a special election would be held at the January meeting to fill the remainder of Scott's 18-month member-at-large term. An audience member asked about nomination timing and expressed interest in immediate nominations.

Jonathan Berner announced Austin Godwin's nomination and invited further nominations. He moved that the January special election follow the same procedure as the current election; Janis Jordan seconded. With no objections, the motion passed.

#### Closing

Heather Pihl asked about a presentation she requested for January, noting lack of clear response. Berner explained an updated presenter calendar would be presented to the Executive Committee on Thursday, and he would follow up to secure the presentation. Pihl emphasized the need for confirmation to inform John Turnbull. Berner clarified the Executive Committee sets the agenda and would discuss the matter at their upcoming meeting.

Berner noted the Executive Committee meeting was rescheduled to Thursday and invited public attendance. With no further comments, he asked for objections to adjourning 48 minutes early. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting and thanked attendees.