

CONSTITUENCY SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 12th, 6-8 PM

- Vice Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:09
 - Roll Call: Haley Land (Vice Chair), Bruce Rutledge (Secretary), Mark Brady, Gordie McIntyre, Nick Setten, David Ghodoussi, Joan Paulson
 - Skip Knox, Adora Lopez, Bob Messina, Lori Brankey, Christine Vaughn, Susanne Keller, Ruth Danner, Russell Monroe, Erin Cox, Bill Downs

6:09 p.m. Approval of agenda

Haley announces that two amendments were proposed to be added to tonight's agenda at the Elections Committee meeting on Friday.

Haley reads the first one:

Nick moves to direct the communication person to send out an amendment to the agenda for the July 12 meeting to include a candidate forum and nominations from to move forward with the election on Tuesday, July 20, from 1 to 4 pm, and a General Assembly meeting from 6 to 8 pm with no election discussion and no election discussion, and further elections on July 23 from 9 to 5.

Gordie seconded the motion and it passed.

There is discussion about whether the motion proposed by Nick needs to be seconded in this meeting.

Motion 071221a--July 12 meeting to include a candidate forum and nominations from to move forward with the election on Tuesday, July 20, from 1 to 4 pm, and a General Assembly meeting from 6 to 8 pm with no election discussion and no election discussion, and further elections on July 23 from 9 to 5.

Bruce seconds.

Christine offers a public comment to this particular motion: With regards to apparently conflicting goals to accommodate time for a candidates' forum and to allow nominations from the floor, to run in-person and online voting concurrently and the need to comply with the requirement to hold elections for PDA Council rep at the regular July meeting, why not hold the Tuesday meeting at its regular time, recess the meeting to reconvene on Wednesday at 4pm and then recess the meeting again to Friday from 9 to 5 to continue the vote. This would accommodate having a candidates' forum and nominations from the floor before the voting begins, and it would allow in-person and online voting to take place at the same time and comply with the requirement that the election take place at the regular Tuesday meeting since it is the same meeting recessed twice and reconvened twice. I'm pretty sure that's how it was done back in the Stone Age when voting on Friday was first introduced.

Lori asks how could we notify everyone about the change in voting procedures?

Haley says the members would be notified by the market newsletter, snail mail, and phone calls. He also says that Gordie mentioned that holding in-person voting on 6-8pm on Tuesday is not ideal as the Market is not very active and no one will be around.

Mark says Christine's suggestion would confuse people who are used to voting at certain times.

Haley mentioned that the newsletter is being worked on right now and there would be a fair amount of revision necessary to adopt Christine's idea.

Nick says Christine's idea is a great one that holds true to the bylaws. This process has been quite chaotic this year, and we've been scrambling to make it work, so he suggests adopting Christine's idea in future elections. We don't have the time to figure it out now.

Mark says Christine's proposal would mean that there would be three days of voting, which means triple the work.

Nick says that Mark has mischaracterized Christine's words. She was very clearly suggesting voting would happen on Wednesday and Friday.

Christine says that Nick is correct. She was not suggesting voting on Tuesday. She also understands Election Committee went pretty far down the road, and it makes sense to stay on path.

Vote on motion 07122021-A

Motion passes 5-1 with one abstention

A second motion is introduced by Nick

Motion 07122021-B: Nick moves that Whereas constituency bylaws state that Article VII Sec 1 that election...shall be held annually at the July regular meeting of the Constituency, and Whereas there are currently no in-person meetings, to recommend to the Executive Committee at 7/12 Special Meeting to extend July GA hours from 6-8pm to 1-8pm with a recess from 4 – 6pm to commence voting from 1-4pm that day. Furthermore, elections will resume on Friday 7/23 from 9 – 5pm.

Bruce seconds the motion.

Motion passes 7-0.

6:36 p.m. Public Comment

Christine says she has listened to the tapes of the Executive Committee meeting of July 7 and the Election Committee meeting of July 9 in their entirety and she has two comments. First, she was appalled by the heavy sarcasm with which a PDA council member referred to the PDA executive director about 1 hour and 10 minutes into the July 9th Election Committee meeting. If the member has an issue with the director's attitude or actions, the appropriate place to air those grievances would be in an executive session of the executive committee of the PDA Council, not at a Constituency meeting. Comments like that one reflect badly on the Constituency's ability to recruit representatives to serve on the PDA Council.

Her second comment was about logistics and was already covered.

Bob talks about the increase in membership to about 570 and how reflects well on the Constituency to keep it alive. He was surprised to hear that we have a surplus of people who want to volunteer. Really great to hear. Positive outcome will push constituency forward.

Lori says she spoke with Haley earlier today about letting people know that email addresses are being shared with a third party without their consent. She had her information removed from that list. She signed up a lot of people to the Constituency, and while people are happy to hear about the online voting, it is important to tell people that the voting will be conducted by a third-party vendor,

6:40 p.m. Discussion of Gov. Inslee's relaxation of rules and how it will affect Constituency's ability to meet in person

Nick says there was a pretty good rundown of the situation at the last Special Executive Committee meeting. Groups are bringing in people for meetings while keeping a remote option available. The PDA still figuring out logistics. For the time being, we continue to meet remotely.

Haley said he called four councils, Bellevue, Burien, Puyallup and Mercer Island – all four will have an online component and may only have online access. Mary sent out a statement saying the Market is not ready for in-person meetings. We don't want to run the risk and don't have the tech support to do it. We don't have the rooms or the technology. One other thought that has been expressed is that you must come down and vote in person. Why do that? It's entirely consistent that the standard be the same for both meetings and voting.

Joan says that the governor's proclamation has everything to do with meetings but has no limits on voting. She says that if there is a recount, their votes will be exposed.

7:00 p.m. Report from Election Committee on status of election (both online and in-person) and vote-counting.

Nick asks long-term members of the Constituency, what is its history of recounts?

Christine: No memory of there being a recount.

Haley: Me neither.

Christine says that her guess is Election Runner has thought of this and can maintain the privacy of voters.

Adora says that Election Runner has options for recounts. Privacy is not the issue – it doesn't expose who voted for whom.

Haley: People's names are not revealed.

Joan says she has attended seven elections, and there were four when we recounted the votes, and all have been in person.

Election Committee status report

Nick says that this weekend, the committee did a short test run with 60 randomly identified members, set to expire at 7pm tonight. The feedback has been positive. One person asked that we be more explicit with instructions. One person had issues logging in. But it has been pretty smoothly for the most part.

We have to run two separate elections online from Tuesday 1-4 and again on Friday 9-5. Haley and Nick have admin privileges after Tuesday voting closes so there is no doubling up. Be aware of people voting in real time and mark on paper at the table to eliminate any double voting.

Haley asks if the two issues that people raised fixable?

Nick says yes.

Haley says that for the In-person election, there are a number of volunteers. The times have been decided but we don't know where the voting will take place.

Gordie says the powers that be won't allow us to have the Flower Row space or a table on the 6th floor and that we should have the election in our office. Gordie says he violently disagrees with that assessment and will keep asking for a better space.

Nick asks that the communication with Karin loops in Haley.

Haley says he is happy to be looped in He says having Gordie in the Market helps his case.

There is discussion about where the election could be held and what protections for election workers are needed. Christine says we should follow the directives the PDA has issued for tenants

Skip says the volunteers should overlap their times. The Volunteer chair should decide how soon they should arrive and how much they should overlap. People should sign in too so we have accountability.

Amended discussion to meet the candidates

Candidate slate introduced by Haley

Jerry Baroh, VP (not present)

Bruce Sec Treasurer

Joan at large

David Ott, at large (not present)

PDA Mark, Russell, Skip

Mark Brady: He says he has owned and operated the Rummage Around for seven years and has been in the Market for 17 years. He is passionate about what happens in the Market. He considers the Market his family and treats them as such. He says he has good rapport with the craftspeople and tenants and is involved in all the committees in the PDA. He served in the military and is a Navy veteran, volunteered during the Vietnam Era but didn't have to go to Vietnam. He has been influential in bringing veterans back to the Market on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. He says he did a pretty good job as sec treasurer of the PDA council for one year. He has raised three generations of kids, none of whom are his. Sebastian being the last one. Got the kids through the Superior Court. They've come out pretty good. None in trouble with the law. Mark says he has the trust of the community.

Russell Monroe has been a member of the Market community since 2009. He's from Florida. He said he was immediately attracted to the Market and now considers it his second family. It has been an important part of his experience in Seattle. He would be honored to serve on the Council. This organization has gone through some rough patches over the last couple of years. He's been a member of the Constituency since 2017. He says the PDA and Constituency are not adversarial with each other. Both organizations have the same goals. We need to start working together more often. He says there have been some serious decorum breaches that need to be addressed. He believes he is the person to do that.

Skip Knox says that when he was between three and five years old, his mom would tell him stories when they were living in Olympia. One of the stories was about Saturday morning trolley trips to the Pike's Market in Seattle to buy the week's groceries. Years later, his cousin, a fisherman, told him about stopping at Pike's Market where you could buy fish hooks by the pound. After registering at UW, he visited Pike's Market to look around and thought, this is really cool.

ATUW he was treasurer of the UW Young Republicans. The Convention was coming up, and somebody leaned on me to bump up the membership. He consulted with his advisor, who told Skip to do the right thing. So Skip called the Convention and told them the UW Young Republicans are frauds. They threw them out. Skip was not very popular after that. The late Congressman John Lewis once said in a commencement address that when something is wrong, and you know it is

wrong and see it is wrong, you have a moral obligation to speak up. Skip says he has followed that rule his entire adult life.

The facilities director of Seattle Schools was fined \$10,000 because of Skip's filing. Same with the Parks director. Skip has been in that sort of clean-up government effort all my life.

He called up state Senator Lady Willie Forbus on the spur of the moment, and she asked him over. After talking for five minutes, she looked Skip in the eye and said, "You're an agitator." Skip replied, "I'll take it as a compliment." With a washing machine, the agitator goes round and round and gets the dirt out. Skip says that's what he does, He said that when he listened to the Constituency meetings early in the year, he thought, this has to stop. The meetings are a whole lot better now.

The meetings were so bad and obnoxious, he says, that he contacted the state auditor. He says his fondest hope is that when the auditor comes through, he says you guys are doing great.

He said he came across the ballots that were used 30 years ago to elect him president.of the Constituency. He gives out his phone number and says to call anytime: 206-588-9656. His email, adskipknox@yahoo.com. He enjoyed chairing the constituency way back in the 1990s. But he feels it has never reached its potential. We do need to make it fun, he adds.

Bruce sys he runs Chin Music Press, the only publishing company in the Market. He has been in the Market since 2014 and in Seattle since 2002. He is from Cleveland, OH. He also spent 17 years in Japan, and he mentions the strong connection the Market had to the Japanese American community before World War II. He said that during the pandemic he did some soul searching and decided to keep his shop going and get more involved in the Market community. He says he is happy to run and do what he can to help the Market.

Joan was born and raised in Tacoma. She remembers the urban markets in downtown Tacoma, which were destroyed by urban renewal. She first came to Pike Place Market at age 6 with her grandmother. As she learned about the Market, she realized that the citizens were going to be in a position to save it, which they did with the 1971 Citizen Initiative. In 1972, she became a staff person at the Urban Renewal office for the summertime. She believes in preservation and changed her degree to urban planning at the UW. She became a resident of the Market in the Fairmont Apartments from 1979 to 1990. She became more involved with Constituency in 2006 and continued to hold an at-large position to help the organization become stronger. Her role is to attend the meetings and review the information that is provided and suggest changes that would make the public market better as a community, not about dollars and cents, but as common sense. We need to make the Market better for everyone. She wishes to continue to write more about the hidden history of the Market and document more about what is going on and what needs to happen in an analytical manner. We must make the Market work for 12 months out of the year instead of just May to September.

Questions of the candidates

David asks will you have the time to volunteer and support the organization?

Joan says she already commits over 20 hours a month. During election time it goes up.

Bruce says he joined in May as a secretary treasurer, and executives know that he is giving quite a bit of time to the Constituency.

Russell mentions that he served as Secretary Treasurer during the last election cycle, but had to resign because of a work related scheduling conflict. He pledges to continue to give as much time as needed.

Mark says his record speaks for itself. He has the best record of all PDA council people four attending meetings. He's only missed four meetings in four years due to medical situations. Once you commit, stay committed.

Skip says once you say you are going to do something, you do it. It's the equivalent of 30-35 days a year to participate in a way that is reasonable and expected. He pledges to give that time as long as he lives that long. We need to make sure to get the important stuff done.

Nick asks in the 50th year of the Citizen's initiative that saved the Market through a grassroots effort, what are the ways you'd like to keep the membership at this level or better?

Russell says we need better decorum at the meetings so that they don't devolve into sarcastic name-calling.

Joan says it's important that we have an agenda that gets out in the proper timeframe, and we have enough information to have discussion.

Mark says we need more input from craftspeople, farmers, store owners to help us with the agenda. We're not responding to their way of being able to communicate. Get more of them involved, we'll have a good following. A lot of them want to get involved but don't know how. There are a lot of big issues that are touching everybody.

Skip says he agonizes over how to get people involved. Everyone is stretched to the limit. The Market community sees itself as an island – and that everything should come to the Market. That's a two-way street. He hopes we can connect the Market with other communities – Ballard, Rainier, so on. We always have problems in common: lack of police support, utility issues, can't touch someone in another district. That needs to be overcome. People don't want to go to a bad meeting twice. Make meetings more fun. Have a laugh. I remember when we brought in a Parliamentarian. And she came in wearing a referee shirt.

Bruce says Haley's leadership should be replicated, and we should push outreach within the Market to raise awareness of the Constituency and what it does.

8:04 Public comment

Haley asks if there are any nominations from the floor?

No response.

Agenda for the July 20 meeting.

Nick says he can present a report on the sewage leak in the office.

Adora wants to address the website and the constituency email and .org URL.

Skip asks if we can nominate at the voting place from 1 to 4?

Haley says we need a quorum to start the meeting at 1 on Tuesday, then vote and suspend the meeting to 6pm.

Christine says a poster at the ballot table is electioneering. She doesn't think that can take place at the voting table. She adds that to keep balance with online voting, a poster at the table would disadvantage online voters.

Erin asks when election is finalized, what happens if there are open spots.

Nick says that in the next general assembly meeting, there would be a vote from the floor to have someone fill that vacancy. That's how we fill mid-term vacancies, according to our bylaws.

David says that people appointed to chair, vice chair and PDA council need to be members of Constituency for at least one year.

Christine asks if Haley will stay on as vice chair through July.

Haley agrees that he will.

Meeting adjourns at 8:23.