# Pike Place Market Constituency
# Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
# August 11th, 2026

**Attendance:**

**In Person:**

Adora Caelah Lopez
Cory Hutton
Chris Scott
Christine Vaughn
Alex Rasmussen
Emily Pike
Bob Braun
Graham Marmion
Jonathan Berner
Jeffrey Barnes
Janis Jordan

**Online:** Gina Karaba

## Opening

Bob Braun, outgoing chair, opened the meeting by welcoming new members and his successor, expressing gratitude for the committee's progress and acknowledging the former Secretary-Treasurer's contributions. Jonathan Berner thanked Bob and officially opened the Pike Place Constituency Operations Committee meeting on August 11, 2026, reviewing meeting procedures and approving the agenda and previous minutes without objection.

## Election Recap & Orientation

Janis Jordan reported on the recent election with 111 votes cast, approximately a quarter to a third of membership. She announced the election of Chris Scott as council representative, Cory Hutton and Jeffrey Barnes as new members at large, and Emily Pike as vice chair. Emily detailed the upcoming special election to fill Austin's vacated seat, with nominees Adora Lopez, John Brink, and Emma (pending consent). Voting options include in-person, Zoom, and email during the meeting; the term is approximately 11 months. Cory confirmed voting instructions were emailed.

Janis introduced a new role orientation for members at large, covering attendance, Public Disclosure Act compliance, and committee involvement. She described ongoing projects including the Engagement Committee's efforts to improve meeting technology and public interaction, and the website update workgroup. Jonathan encouraged new members to join the Engagement Committee, noting its importance and positive experience. Graham Marmion added the committee meets monthly on the first Wednesday at 5:15 PM.
Chris Scott noted the need to update the committee handbook and bylaws to reflect the recent name change to Operations Committee. The handbook committee has been handed off; Jonathan will follow up with Nick. Graham requested distribution of the updated handbook for review; Janis agreed to send it.

Emily recommended members familiarize themselves with key governing documents: Constituency bylaws, PDA Charter, Market Historical Commission guidelines, and the Hilt-Lakata Agreement. Cory requested a Robert's Rules cheat sheet; Graham noted it is linked online. Jonathan suggested printing QR codes for resources and offered to propose this to the Engagement Committee. Emily confirmed she can provide QR codes.

Graham described the officer-at-large role as requiring attendance and offering opportunities to engage and advocate, emphasizing informal authority. Jonathan agreed but cautioned against speaking on behalf of the constituency. Jeff Barnes asked if officers can represent member concerns; Jonathan affirmed they can share his contact but encouraged individuals to attend general meetings for public comment. Alex Rasmussen highlighted opportunities to advocate informally and connect concerns to decision-makers. Christine Vaughan stressed distinguishing personal opinions from official positions, which require formal motions per bylaws. Jonathan noted fluctuating membership makes official positions delicate; the constituency serves as a public forum with direct governance access. Janis added that the chair and secretary-treasurer meet monthly with PDA leadership to relay concerns. Bob advised new officers to listen more than speak and follow sincere interests.

## Introductions for New Officers

Members introduced themselves, sharing names, pronouns, roles, and market connections: Cory Hutton (he/him), Chris Scott (he/him), Christine Vaughan (she/her), Alex Rasmussen (he/him), Emily Pike (he/she/they), Graham Marmion (he/him), Jonathan Berner (he/him), and Jeff Barnes (they/them).

Janis introduced herself as Secretary-Treasurer, responsible for minutes, agendas, budgets, and fund oversight. She proposed creating a centralized attendance log to simplify tracking, supported by Jonathan. Alex suggested a shared document; Christine likened it to an extended sign-in sheet. Janis confirmed current attendance tracking and will compile a spreadsheet. Chris reminded updating the website's "About Us" section with current officers.

## Allied Arts Beer & Culture Event Update

Jonathan transitioned to the Allied Arts Beer and Culture event update. Emily reported the event at Polio is at capacity for in-person attendance but accepting online RSVPs. It includes a social hour and panel discussion moderated by John Turnbull. Chris provided background on Turnbull's market and city administration experience. Graham relayed a volunteer call for roles including check-in, food stocking, bartender assistance, and greeters. Emily and Cory volunteered for check-in; Chris offered support as needed. Emily clarified Allied Arts manages catering; the board provides volunteer support. Graham reassigned Emily from check-in due to speaking role but noted she could assist with teardown. Janis confirmed volunteer interests; Graham reminded members to sign up when the list is distributed. Cory confirmed check-in times; Adora inquired about technical management.

Emily explained Allied Arts, with PDA and Folio assistance, manages technical aspects of the Allied North American Culture event, including AV and Zoom participation. Graham will moderate the hybrid format. Emily invited questions; none were raised.

## Public Comment

Jonathan opened member comments on non-agenda items. Cory questioned why special elections differ from general elections, suggesting standardization.

Janis explained bylaws require 30-day notice and in-person voting for special elections, unlike annual elections using Election Runner. Jonathan elaborated that special elections prioritize quick vacancy filling over broader engagement, occurring within 30 days versus three months for general elections. He expressed openness to revisiting the process. Emily proposed further discussion and suggested using Election Runner during special election meetings to improve accessibility. Jonathan asked Janis about immediate ballot distribution after nominations; Janis noted nomination windows and discomfort with last-minute additions. They discussed Election Runner's limitations, including no write-in option and cost (~$90), requiring budget planning.

Christine and Janis confirmed bylaws imply voters must be present for special elections. Janis recommended reviewing bylaws and election experiences to prepare ideas for the next Executive Committee meeting; Jonathan agreed and requested agenda inclusion. Jeff inquired about Election Runner; Janis explained it facilitates digital voting via email but physical ballots remain an option. Jonathan noted limited candidate information for special elections; Emily emphasized attending meetings is necessary to learn about candidates. Chris reported a recent Election Runner glitch causing duplicate notifications; Janis confirmed the issue was tracked and results unaffected. Jonathan confirmed he participated in testing. Graham suggested any decision to use Election Runner for special elections be preceded by thorough procedural and bylaw review, with findings presented at the next Executive Committee meeting. Jonathan confirmed commitment and asked Janis to ensure agenda placement.

## September General Assembly Agenda

The discussion shifted to the September 15 General Assembly agenda. Janis outlined the August 18 meeting agenda: speaker EJ, special election process (nominations, forum, voting), committee updates, and member comments. Emily announced Gordon Padelford from Seattle Streets Alliance as a guest speaker for September. Jonathan noted the initial email controversy and plans to invite Friends of the Market in October, asking Christine to extend the invitation. Christine indicated it may have been done but agreed the chair should send it; Jonathan offered to send it if needed and inquired about the current Friends of the Market chair.

Jonathan asked for guest topics; Cory suggested hearing guests' vision for the market and street use. Berner confirmed Gordon's acceptance. Graham proposed adding a member validation and re-engagement initiative to the September agenda, aiming to canvass inactive members and encourage broader participation beyond the engagement committee. Cory asked about the online registration timeline; Jonathan said the project is ongoing and advised not to tie validation efforts to its completion. Janis updated that the website address was purchased and initial work underway, including transferring content and coordinating formatting and budgeting. Gina Karaba suggested placing informational signs with QR codes in employee restrooms and resident lobbies to raise awareness. Jonathan supported this as a Phase 2 website project and encouraged Gina to join the Engagement Committee.

Jonathan confirmed Graham's member validation proposal was added to the September agenda. Janis outlined planned agenda items: PDA guest speaker, Gordon Padelford's presentation, member validation discussion, committee and PDA updates, and budget planning. Chris recommended special announcements before Gordon's presentation due to his role and community interest. Janis suggested reminding attendees of decorum rules. Jonathan volunteered to summarize relevant bylaws, the Historical Commission charter, and the constituency's street position letter to set discussion tone, proposing inclusion in the September newsletter.

Jeff proposed adding refreshments to meetings to encourage attendance and involve market businesses. Janis noted the PDA Council already provides refreshments. Bob confirmed PDA support for a refreshments budget; Jonathan agreed to follow up on funding and vendor recommendations. Chris recalled Starbucks previously provided coffee but suggested prioritizing local vendors.

Jonathan reminded the group of the recent meeting schedule change, noting the current meeting was five weeks before the next, which may affect agenda planning. Jeff asked about discussing produce or farmers at a previous General Assembly meeting; Jonathan requested details.

Jeff raised concern about farmers feeling unsupported and profit declines, referencing a public comment from the prior meeting. Chris confirmed it was a public comment; Janis recalled the topic was deferred due to time constraints, with Emily suggesting future agenda placement. Jonathan asked who initiated the discussion, cautioning against broad agenda additions without clear focus to avoid repetition. Alex explained the Strategic Planning and Programs Meeting, held monthly before the current meeting, frequently addresses farmer support and market improvements, including connecting farmers with local restaurants, encouraging attendance or listening for updates.

Gina shared that she, Christine, and Chris recently visited a farm to learn about challenges and market support, noting ongoing efforts to expand farmers' economic opportunities through remote markets. Christine added program details and plans are available on the PDA website, suggesting specific topics could be selected for focused discussion.

Jeff proposed inviting farmers to speak at the November meeting to share successes and struggles. Jonathan supported this and inquired about contacts. Chris mentioned Mark Jacobs and Nora from the PDA as knowledgeable contacts. Alex confirmed Nora's expertise and suggested EJ as the initial PDA contact. Jonathan volunteered to contact EJ to arrange farmer speakers for November, pending PDA approval.

## Closing

With no further agenda items, Jonathan proposed adjourning the meeting 30 minutes early, which was agreed upon. The meeting was adjourned.