

MINUTES

CONSTITUENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 25, 2023, 6-8pm

The Constituency is inviting you to a scheduled meeting. This meeting will be held both by Zoom (link below) and in the Economy Building Classroom (1435 First Ave, 3rd Floor).

Officers: (in person) Bob Braun, Bruce Rutledge, Russell Monroe, Gordie McIntyre (Online) Nick Setten, Joan Paulson, Jerry Baroh

Members: (in person) Chris Gott, Heather Pihl (online) Bob Messina, Christine Vaughan, Liz Hughes, Galaxy S10+, Gina Karaba

Bob Braun called the meeting to order at 6:16

Minutes for the April 2023 Ex Com meeting are approved by acclamation.

Agenda is approved by acclamation.

Public comment

Bob Messina: Mentioned the recent eco-charette for the Market, but said he was disappointed that they only spoke about electricity. He said that to become carbon neutral, we should be discussing the natural gas usage in the Market. They didn't even talk about the fossil fuel usage.

Russell says he thought they showed a screenshot of a dashboard of usage of natural gas in one of the buildings.

Bob M continues by thanking David Ghoddousi and Nick Setten by contradicting another council member who said changing the charter would be necessary to meet sustainability goals. But he doesn't have the experience in the Market, and it was good for our PDA Council reps to speak up.

Chris G says there needs to be a packet made for the new PDA Council rep because they are going to be way behind. They need a sit down one-on-one with one of our council people or other members and have a tutorial/information package ready from day one.

Russell says that while there is an on-boarding process, he agrees with Chris that more is needed.

Heather says she appreciates Nick & David's comments. She says she was at the meetings in question. In the case of the solar panels, this was an outside vendor working with City Light to find places to showcase solar power. The Commission guidelines allow harmonious development while stimulating change so that the Market remains the Market but change is allowed. What was proposed but never made it to the Commission was to put on the south side of the Desimone roof a whole battery of solar panels. You'd see them from the Desimone Bridge. She says you could have put the panels on the Fairley Building, roof, for example, and because you can't see them, the Commission would not have to review the decision. But the vendor wanted the panels to be visible to people.

In the case of the windows, the Commission determined that the proposed windows were not in keeping with the guidelines, and there was an issue of maintenance. They would still need to be repainted. But technology is changing all the time. The Commission's guidelines don't have to be changed, she argued. Those guidelines say that you repair before you restore, you restore before you replace. That's really important. Heather says she will continue to speak out and write to the PDA Council and probably Methune on this and other matters.

Bob Braun says we may be about 12 to 24 months from solar-panel paint.

6:33 p.m. Election update

Bob will meet with Adora to plan the election and make sure everything is in order.

Nick offers to share past info on running elections.

Gordie says he and Bruce have been keeping the membership list up to date.

Bob says the group has done phone-banking to make sure members know their memberships are expiring.

Gordie says it might be good to have one more phone-banking effort on the shorter list of expired members. He explains that the last day to renew your membership and be eligible to vote in the July election is June 21.

Bruce mentions that Haley Land has applied a tear-sheet with membership registration forms to the Constituency office door. Heather says it is also available where the buskers register.

Nick asks if anyone besides Gina has said they wanted to run. He mentions that Jonathan Berner showed interest.

Heather asks about deadlines for submitting your candidacy.

Nick says you can declare your candidacy as late as the first day of the election. Bruce adds that candidate statements are mailed to the membership right after the 4th of July.

Christine says the procedures for approving elections are outlined in the bylaws.

6:43 p.m. Constituency employee update

Bruce mentions that his motion to hire Heather was passed in the last GA meeting.

Nick mentioned that he met Erica and talked to her about Heather's hiring, and she said there was a process we have to go through. He said Adora is planning to meet with Mary and figure out what we need to do.

Bob offers to join Adora's meeting with Mary. He says we need to move forward.

Heather says we should talk with Erica first. Nick agrees. He encourages a spirit of collaboration.

Bob says we need to understand what's going on.

Bruce says he has sent several emails to Erica but has not received a response, so perhaps his emails are going into her spam folder.

Nick mentions that he thought Mary was thinking the position would be part PDA, part Constituency.

Nick talked about meeting Erica. Adora meet with Mary.

6:53 p.m. Old business

None

6:53 p.m. New business

Nick says we should create our agenda for the June JA.

After discussion, the agenda for the June GA will include the following points:

- PDA 50-year celebration
- Master plan
- PPM50.com
- Candidate discussion
- Inviting guests such as someone from Market Historical Commission

Adora suggests adding a question to the candidate questionnaire about the Market in 50 years. Says she thinks the election will be fully staffed.

Nick mentions that Sharon Shaw, known as the Mother of the Market, passed away. He says there will be a celebration of her life on June 21 at 5-7:30 at the Marketfront Pavilion.

Gordie provides an update on the Finance Committee meeting. He says the Market is about \$600,000 over projections now and on target for \$2 million for the year. A bunch of lease proposals were passed. He mentions the Heritage House, a hospice facility over the garage. They got a 2-year extension because the building is old.

Joan adds to Gordie's report by saying the Heritage House was last improved 10 years ago. She says she thinks the PDA needs to be clear about how it will help companies catch up with back rent.

Nick says there is a desire to use Heritage House as an assisted living facility. It's the only one in the downtown corridor that caters to people on Medicaid. It's also crucial in treating senior mental health.

7:08 p.m. Public comment

Bob offers some lighthearted news in the Market. Taxi Dog has been vacant for 2-3 years. A new business passed the Use Committee. They are a croissant bakery. I asked the MHC what they will do with the Taxi Dog sign? Might go into storage although there was an offer to buy it.

Also, the plastic monkfish at the Pike Place Fish Market that is used to surprise tourists had broken. They have ordered a new scary monkfish.

Nick asks if there was any conversation about competing bakeries?

Bob M says people felt the croissant business was unique enough in its product lineup.

Adora asks to keep Jonathan's motion about the daystall workers on the agenda for the June GA.

Chris Gott introduces himself, explaining his various offices over the years. He says he is basically the person responsible for our office. Nick and Jerry agree with that comment.

Gina introduces self. She's been a craftsperson almost 20 years. She was on the Pavilion Committee with Haley and Lillian, so she's not a stranger to meetings and long processes. She says she's been pretty active in the 50-year plan. She has ideas around accessibility, and has probably been the most vocal crafter on the 50-year plan. She says she's interested in running for PDA Council rep but would like clarification on the various roles.

7:23 p.m. Adjourn meeting