

May 15, 2018
Constituency General Assembly draft minutes
6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Chris Scott, Daniel Fleming, Jerry Baroh, Nick Setten, David Ghoddousi, Gloria Skouge(?), Ali Mowry, Joan Paulson

Chris Scott opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Mary Bacarella was scheduled to discuss the Pike Place Merchants Association but was not available.

Open Discussion: Chris proposed to allow new attendees to introduce themselves .

Daniel Fleming, daystall tenant for ten years, expressed frustration with the lack of community, and lack of support for the crafts community. He cited the economic success of Starbucks and Pike Place Fish, as opposed to the crafts community. He sought for support from the Constituency in advertising for the crafts community, and to provide the opportunity to buy group insurance for the Market community. He asked

Chris explained that the Constituency, per its charter, isn't able to create a new Pike Place Merchants Association. It is up to the daystalls, business owners.

There was a discussion about the previous PDA Director. Daniel expressed that the PDA doesn't care about the crafts community. Chris suggested gathering a small group in the crafts community and applying for a grant to the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

David Ghoddousi provided background and history on the Merchants Association.

Daniel spoke about the idea of collectivizing the crafts community. He expressed disappointment that there weren't more members of the daystall community present.

Chris explained to Daniel that the Constituency provides public oversight in the Market, lobbies the PDA Council and City Hall, and elects four members to the PDA Council, a very specific role. The Constituency can be informed, but not take on things outside the Charter.

There was a discussion about increasing attendance and participation at Constituency meetings.

Daniel summarized that he feels that the crafts community is underrepresented and unsupported.

Chris asked Ali Mowry, an employee in the Market, to address some of the issues. Ali spoke of other businesses in the Market whose owners have expressed that they feel underrepresented to the PDA. Ali suggested using the Commons as meeting space. She said it takes contacting people and it is slow.

Chris suggested attending the PDA's meeting and said that it is transparent, but you have to read about them and attend the meetings. He said the Programs staff do a good job explaining how they spend the money. Chris provided contact information for Jim Diers to Daniel, to get help with community organizing. He suggested that Daniel first apply for a grant from Dept. of Neighborhoods.

Chris solicited ideas from the Board members present on next steps. Joan Paulson spoke to the importance of marketing. Daniel said that the marketing by the PDA the past few years has been great at including the crafts.

There was a discussion of daystalls vs. stores with doors in the Market. Daniel said he can't take branding of his business outside the Market without running into legal problems with the PDA. Daniel cited the Market as a business incubator, but said that it does not ensure longtime viability.

Unidentified woman - she doesn't think that residents at the Market have much power. She cited the example of the MarketFront elevators - investment was too small, and they break down. When they break down, people can't get to their cars. She is a disabled resident and has gotten trapped when the elevators broke down. Daniel discussed problems with elevators in Soames-Dunn. There was a discussion about problems getting messages to the PDA. Chris suggested to the resident that she contact the residential management at the PDA. She asked what is the representation of the residents on the Constituency and what is its role. Chris said he didn't think it was a lot compared to representatives of businesses and daystalls.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.