

**Pike Place Market Constituency  
General Assembly Meeting Minutes  
August 18th, 2026**

**Attendance:**

**In Person:**

Adora Caelah Lopez  
Cory Hutton  
Chris Scott  
Christine Vaughan  
Emily Pike  
Bob Braun  
Graham Marmion  
Jonathan Berner  
Jeff Barnes  
Janis Jordan  
Brandon der Blätter  
Henry Zhang Xiaqin  
Xanna Vegsundvaag

**Online:**

Heather Pihl  
Erik Pihl  
Haley Land  
Emma Mulanix  
Alex Rasmussen  
Gina Karaba  
Max I.

**Opening**

Jonathan Berner opened the Pike Place Constituency General Assembly meeting on August 18th, 2026, reviewing meeting procedures, confirming agenda and prior minutes approval, and requesting clearer future minutes, which Janis Jordan agreed to.

### Public Comment

During public comment, Brandon der Blätter highlighted strong public support for vehicle barriers at Pike Place Market, urging restrictions on general vehicle access while allowing emergency and vendor vehicles. Austin Godwin thanked volunteers from Allied Arts for their work at the Beer and Culture event. Graham Marmion raised concerns about exclusion from the street management plan development and questioned the Urban Freight Lab study's validity, announcing plans to request raw data and draft a formal statement for September review and ratification. Elaine Spencer cautioned that removing parking could harm legacy merchants reliant on local customers, urging consultation before policy endorsements.

Katie Trent shared new market sales and visitation data in the upcoming Executive Council packet, noting challenges for some merchant categories and increased street management proposals. Additional public comments included Zana Vegsondvaag's proposal for fob access to the Secret Garden after hours; Henry Zhang Xiaqin's support for pedestrianizing the market to benefit families and vendors; Christine Vaughan's concerns about financial losses and safety rationale for traffic restrictions; and Gina Karaba's call for a flexible, low-cost street management system controlled by the market.

### Guest Speakers: EJ Griffin & Erica Bates

EJ Griffin and Erica Bates from the PDA introduced themselves and discussed the Constituency's role per the PDA Charter, emphasizing compliance with Washington State's Open Public Meeting Act and Public Records Act. EJ offered legal guidance resources and highlighted transparency in communications. Erica reviewed the Constituency's budget, encouraging fuller utilization for items like merchandise, snacks, and administrative support. Austin Godwin noted anticipated higher expenses for future events, supported by Erica. Haley Land advocated allocating unspent funds toward grassroots outreach. EJ announced an upcoming community budget meeting on October 8th.

### Special Election

Vice Chair Emily Pike conducted a special election for officer-at-large. John Brink withdrew but remained on the ballot. Brandon der Blätter nominated

himself; Caelah Adora Lopez also ran. Both candidates introduced themselves, discussed attendance commitments, familiarity with bylaws, recruitment strategies, market infrastructure concerns, healthcare access for workers, and budget management. Lopez emphasized grassroots efforts and community power; Der Blatter focused on reducing membership barriers and improving accessibility. Candidates answered questions on market engagement and affiliations.

Voting proceeded with in-person paper ballots and online votes collected by Janis Jordan. Adora Lopez won 13 to 9 and was welcomed to the Operations Committee. Jonathan Berner thanked outgoing member Austin Godwin.

### PDA Council & Market Historical Commission Reports

Committee updates included Alex Rasmussen's report on Strategic Planning and Programs: a pilot for farmers' parking, increased CSA boxes, strong off-site sales, busker permits near pre-pandemic levels, and a new Merchants Association lease near First and Pine. Christine Vaughan provided a community budget update, noting a \$2.7 million favorable variance due to expense management despite lower revenues, deferred boiler room repairs, and several tenant-related resolutions. Katie Trent clarified sales and revenue figures, confirming strong net financials as of July.

Jonathan Berner suggested more accessible sales data for commercial tenants; Christine Vaughan noted quarterly reports exist but monthly updates would increase workload. Chris Scott and Gina Karaba reported on an educational visit to Jacob's Agro Farm, highlighting sustainable farming innovations and support for farmers amid flooding. Austin Godwin updated on Historical Commission matters, including business proposals and an upcoming SDOT winter operations meeting. Heather Pihl detailed restoration and interpretive signage plans for Victor Steinbrueck totem poles. Austin noted his pending City Council confirmation for the Historical Commission appointment and encouraged constituent advocacy.

Jonathan Berner provided a Merchants Association update on activating the group via the Circle app's "Arcade" feature for networking, with employee participation welcomed. Emily Pike reported on a recent panel event co-hosted with Allied Arts on street topics and announced the next Engagement Committee meeting on September 2nd to plan future events and process improvements. Janis

Jordan updated on the website redesign and invited IT professionals to join the work group for a year-end launch.

### Non-agenda Comments & Closing

Jonathan Berner emphasized adherence to the agenda and opened the floor for non-agenda public comments. Haley Land inquired about insights from the Jacob's Agro visit; Gina Karaba shared discussions on agroforestry, land ownership, and grants. Chris Scott clarified the farm's affiliation. Austin Godwin confirmed the next night market date as the fourth Friday of the month. Cory Hutton offered to connect with those interested in sharing street-related stories. Jonathan Berner welcomed new Operations Committee members Cory Hutton, Jeff Barnes, and Adora Lopez, noting arrangements for Adora's email setup. With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned 17 minutes early.