

In Person

Officers: Bob Braun, Bruce Rutledge, Nick Setten, Babak Ziraknejad, Davin Stedman

Members: Annie Lannin, Chris Scott, Christopher Martin, Craig Eidsmoe, Graham Marmion, J. Andrew Carroll, Jonny Hahn, Chris Weaver, Ethan Anderson, Heather Pihl

Online

Officers: Alex Rasmussen, Jonathan Berner, Gina Karaba

Members: Liz Hughes, Megumms, 2065287790, Joan Paulson, Bob Messina, John Brink, Erik Pihl, Rachel Powell, Zek Gebrekiden

CONSTITUENCY GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 6:15 p.m.

6:16 p.m. Bob calls the meeting to order

6:16 p.m. Approval of agenda

Approved by acclamation

6:17 p.m. Approval of minutes: April 16, 2019; May 21, 2019; August 20, 2024

Approved by acclamation

6:20 p.m. Old business

Budget

Bruce submits a very basic, boilerplate budget and asks for officers to add to it.

Constituency budget

Annual Expenses

Item	Amount
Admin personnel (10hrs/week)	\$12,500.00
Office (website/mailing etc.)	\$1,000.00

Brochure printing	\$1,000.00
Outreach committee	\$1,000.00
Listening Committee	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$250.00

Total	\$16,750.00
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Nick and Emily estimate it will cost \$1,000 for brochure printing

Emily's budget proposal:

I want to propose a \$500 allotment in our budget for small, targeted, creative projects to benefit members of the Market community. As an example, I have been working with Market buskers, as well as a few folks from the PDA and other Constituency members, to develop a "Tip Your Buskers" campaign. This project will involve the creation of table signs and collectible buttons that educate visitors about the busking program and remind them (ahem) to be generous with street performers. My hope is to have a Market artist design the buttons, and to produce them through Ugly Baby, who has generously offered to donate use of their button-making machine. If the Constituency could sponsor the creation of these buttons by contributing to costs of materials (estimated at \$200-\$300), I foresee two positive effects: the generation of goodwill between our organization and our neighbors in the Market who would benefit from projects such as this, as well as increased awareness of the Constituency through our collaboration with Market artists and businesses. I regret not being available to answer questions or further clarify this proposal, but I am happy to expand on it if anyone has questions to send me through email!

Babak offers to help Bruce flesh out the budget.

6:25 p.m. New business

Figgy Pudding

The Figgy Pudding presentation by Pamela Hinckley was moved to October

Cars on Pike Place

Nick explains that PDA is in waiting mode without an Executive Director

Heather mentions that the transportation plan is a 20 year plan.

Andrew suggests getting ahead of the issue and not waiting to react.

Gina says the 1st street trolley is still a subject. It would be years of construction. She also says SDOT sometimes makes it hard to shut down Pike Place.

Johnny Hahn says there are 3 streets without SDOT data, including Pike Place. But he has seen SDOT install a camera there at least twice.

Gina – Do we video the street?

Russ – Study showed around 600 ride-share trips on the road.

Bob – We're on record about the streetcar. We wrote a letter arguing that the PDA is best equipped to control the road.

Heather – There was a presentation on streetcar, all three lines, at city council. She spoke on behalf of FOM. Some of us met with reporter Mike Lindblom. The presentation should be online.

Chris Scott – Greenways and other urbanist groups treat our community like another neighborhood. It's not. We are almost a city. We have a governing body, advisory group, police force, health, contract out fire etc. Imagine you are in a town and the town next to you tells you what to do.

Joan – Talks about streetcar plans and budget.

Heather – addendum, Strauss explained that with or without a streetcar there needs to be work in Pioneer Square on 1st. He said there may be utility work near the Market.

Bob – We've sent two letters. Let's dig them up and send to the membership to review at the next Ex Com and GA.

Nick – Whatever happens will be a partnership with PDA and SDOT

Chris Weaver – didn't a streetcar run in the past?

Heather: Tracks were ripped up in 1941 because Seattle couldn't pay the loan.

Erik, Burke Gilman project by SDOT was supposed to be 6 months but ended up being 18-20, At least three businesses folded because of impact. He talks about streetcars in the past and explains the differences between then and now.

Joan proposes electric buses be put back on 1st.

Jonathan – It's almost offensive that we are still talking about streetcar. Could be solved by a bus.

Chris – trolley buses are best solution. So much cheaper than a trolley line. If built, it would be in phases. We'd be the last.

Emily – Pike Place

Bruce reads statement from Emily:

Apologies for being unavailable for tonight's meeting, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to reiterate the comments I made at the last ExCom. I'm very interested in the ongoing conversation about the traffic configuration of Pike Place--I know that there is a diversity of opinions on the subject both within the Market community and beyond. I've been heartened to see members of the Constituency and representatives from Friends of the Market engaging with the issue by attending meetings held by Seattle Neighborhood Greenways and discussing possibilities, logistics, and compromise. I've observed members of both organizations sharing and receiving information and learning from each other. And I know many Seattle residents who are interested in seeing adjustments to street use on Pike Place because they are frequent visitors of the neighborhood and patrons of our businesses. These are people who love the Market, are invested in its success and are eager to participate in its ongoing development. I realize that the PDA has plenty on its plate at the moment, but I think we should encourage them to start taking action on this, and I think we can help them along by inviting Greenways members to join us for meetings so that they can offer insights, and will also have an opportunity to describe possible limitations as to what PPM can and cannot do. This could be an exciting opportunity to partner with another neighborhood group and initiate a process of community-building and collaboration.

CB120824 - 3-year Design Review exemption in downtown neighborhoods

A draft letter prepared by Heather and Bruce is handed out

Alex voices support for the draft.

Discussion of letter

Andrew proposes language to mention low income housing and perhaps a carve out. Do X, Y, Z but leave A, B, C.

Heather says the move to exempt builders from design review is anti-democratic.

Andrew suggests putting those feelings in. Language like that would be powerful.

Chris says there have been workshops throughout city where they talk about the future of the city. He has mixed feelings about the letter. The building process needs some streamlining but also community input. It's about low-income housing.

Rachel says it is ridiculous to eliminate the community input.

Jonathan is in support of the letter.

The group suggests adding:

As you know the Market community includes 400 housing units and supports creating affordable housing in the city . This rushed ordinance will...

Nick moves to send this letter as amended

Bruce seconds

Opposed? None.

Passed by acclamation

Bob M, suggests guest speaker Madinah Slaise

Babak said maybe not the best use of our time to have her as a speaker. Says she is alarming.

Chris suggests that she needs to start coming to our meetings.

Bob takes issue with Babak's comments about her being alarming.

Chris says she's had confrontational engagements at MHC without understanding how it works.

Babak says she was very disrespectful to MHC and used bad language. We need a vetting process for our speakers.

Members agree to add vetting criteria for inviting guests to the Ex Com agenda.

Russell mentions dates for Oct. and Nov meetings may have to be changed.

Jonathan asks that we pay better attention to the people online.

7:58 p.m. Public comment

Davin introduces friends, musicians Ethan, Roosevelt. They introduce an evening of music at the Triple Door on 9/27 and invite Constituency members to come for free.

8:11 p.m. Adjourn meeting