

April 17, 2018
Constituency General Assembly Draft Minutes
6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Chris Scott, Gloria Skouge, Nick Setten, David Ott, Peter Bassiri, Bob Messina, Lilly Glover, Joan Paulson, Joe Read, Jack Strubbe

Chris Scott opened the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Chris introduced the guest speaker, Lilly Glover, Executive Director of the Food Bank.

Lilly said she's been in her position for about a year. She's been involved in the Market as a volunteer since 2012. For the past year, they have been focused on increasing their inventory and improving the experience for people visiting the food bank. They have added more hours, and adapted the layout. Services reach about 1,000 households/week. They also deliver groceries to homebound residents. They are looking to further extend their hours and to improve the environment. They have submitted an application to the Historical Commission for painting the exterior walls.

Responding to questions from Joan Paulson, Lilly said that they plan to be open more hours, which means they need more food and more space.

Joan Paulson suggested that Lilly submit a summary to the PDA Council, because they need advanced notice on conversion of parking spaces.

There was a question about drivers for the food bank. Lilly clarified that there is a staff driver. The food bank does use volunteers onsite.

Nick Setten asked about her expectations coming to the role and how accurate they proved to be. She said she didn't anticipate the needs from the downtown community. Nick further asked about sources for food at the food bank. Lilly said that most comes from grocery stores.

Chris asked about governance at the food bank and the Foundation's role there. Lilly explained that the food bank is a separate program housed in its own location. There is staff shared between the food bank and the senior center. The Foundation provides a three-year grant that supports the staff. There is a board shared between the food bank and the senior center. The Foundation is a partner. Food bank does programming at the Commons, including a community dinner. The food costs 50 cents to give 20 lbs of food

away, but it costs \$5 to give out each 20 lbs of food due to the costs of operating the food bank.

There was a question about the top five contributors. Lilly answered Safeway, NW Harvest and Food Lifeline.

There was a discussion about food banks competing for food. Lilly explained that it wasn't a problem. If they had another van, they could get more food.

Nick asked about challenges the food bank faces. Lilly cited being in the dark garage space; the physical space. She said some minor improvements would make a difference.

Open Discussion Topics

Chris invited Peter Bassiri from Seattle Cutlery to share about issues with his shop. Peter said he felt there are a lot of issues facing smaller merchants in the Market. He feels there is a "divide and conquer" so that merchants don't feel they can speak their minds without repercussions. He wondered if the Constituency is a place where there can be support. Chris answered that Constituency could convene a meeting at the Commons where Peter and fellow merchants could have a discussion. Chris said there is apathy among the merchants; they are willing to complain but not to take the time to do anything about the issues. Peter said he is an outlier because he is willing to speak his mind. He said there are merchants that fear retribution from the PDA. He liked the idea of holding a meeting where merchants could be comfortable and speak their minds.

Chris said this all goes back to the fact that the Market doesn't have a healthy merchants' association. Joan said it's an internal problem. The PDA has just brought on the MarketFront, but has not increased staff appropriately, including for security and maintenance.

There was a discussion about what constitutes consistent and fair management.

Jack Strubbe told about being given the runaround in trying to access a restroom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.