

**Pike Place Market Constituency
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8th, 2026**

Attendees:

In person:

Alex Rasmussen
Graham Marmion
Chris Scott
Jeff Barnes
Cory Hutton
Gina Karaba
Adora Caelah Lopez
Jonathan Berner
Janis Jordan

Online:

Jan Peterson
Heather Pihl
John Kelso
Emma Mulanix

Opening

Jonathan Berner called the Pike Place Market Operations Committee meeting to order on September 8, 2026, reviewed meeting procedures, and confirmed voting eligibility limited to executive committee members. The agenda and August minutes were approved without objection. No public comments were received online.

Budget Overview

Janis Jordan, Secretary-Treasurer, introduced the budget discussion with Jeff Barnes. Jeff proposed using remaining budget funds to provide light refreshments at meetings, including the General Assembly and Operations Committee

(OpsCom), citing manageable costs from local vendors and potential catering partnerships. Jonathan Berner suggested budgeting \$100 monthly for OpsCom and \$200 for the General Assembly, which Jeff agreed was sufficient. Janis confirmed approximately \$13,000 remained after anticipated expenses.

Alex Rasmussen recommended limiting refreshments to the General Assembly to avoid political optics concerns raised by Graham Marmion, who supported refreshments at General Assemblies but cautioned about perceptions of OpsCom spending. Jonathan Berner emphasized no donations or discounts should be accepted to avoid conflicts. The group agreed OpsCom could approve the food budget without a vote, and implementation was planned for the following week.

Janis reviewed the Engagement Committee budget, noting delays in busker pin distribution and plans to pay buskers next year. Members discussed potential engagement events, including a seasonal harvest celebration and an *ofrenda* event, with encouragement to bring ideas to the Engagement Committee. Janis highlighted upcoming budget priorities such as website refreshes and office furniture upgrades, urging members to prepare for budget discussions targeting finalization in October and approval in November.

Declaration Regarding Street Use

The committee discussed a declaration proposed by Graham Marmion to be placed on the next General Assembly agenda for discussion, not immediate voting. Jonathan Berner clarified the committee's role in agenda setting versus motions made during meetings. Members supported scheduling the discussion for the upcoming week with a vote planned for October after revisions. Concerns were raised about timing and ensuring all relevant panelists had input before voting. The declaration aims to affirm the Constituency as the formal public forum for Pike Place Market affairs, including street use, with urgency tied to planning timelines expiring in January 2027.

Website Update

Janis updated on the website redesign, noting migration to a new WordPress template for easier editing and plans for online membership registration. Cory Hutton recommended using a third-party membership management service like

Join It to improve security, simplify administration, and enable member self-service. The team agreed to explore this option and provide updates within a month. Adora Caelah Lopez proposed automating meeting link emails, which Jonathan supported with adjustments to include agendas and ensure visibility.

Handbook Update

Janis reported on the handbook draft, noting many broken links and incomplete content. Graham Marmion and Jonathan Berner supported increasing administrative hours to compile and convert documents into PDFs, with Janis coordinating with staff. During public comments, Graham Marmion invited feedback on the declaration and offered in-person discussions. Heather Pihl expressed concern about the declaration's challenge to the Market Historical Commission's authority. Janis reminded members to use BCC when emailing the committee to comply with the Open Meeting Act.

Agenda Review and Closing

The committee reviewed upcoming General Assembly agendas for September and October, confirming speakers, discussion items, and scheduling adjustments to accommodate time constraints. Jonathan Berner emphasized concise committee reports and suggested council and MHC members submit written reports online to streamline meetings. Chris Scott noted that budget and holiday presentations would be brief due to time limits. Jeff Barnes inquired about voting procedures, and Jonathan clarified votes occur only during meetings, with surveys used solely for information gathering.

With no further comments, Jonathan Berner proposed adjourning the meeting 30 minutes early, which was accepted, and the meeting was adjourned.