

CONSTITUENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, February 23, 2023, 6-8pm
Minutes

Attendance

Officers: Bob Braun (7:20), Nick Setten, Bruce Rutledge, Gordie McIntyre, Russell Monroe, Joan Paulson, Jerry Baroh

Members: Erik Pihl, Bob Messina, Liz (surname?), Heather Pihl, Skip Knox, Christine Vaughan

6:16 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Rutledge

6:17 p.m. The agenda was approved after adding MHC/Department of Neighborhoods and Pike Place Market petition updates.

6:18 p.m. There were no minutes to approve.

6:19 p.m. **Public comment**

Bob M: At tonight's PDA meeting, Mary Bacarella said she wants to start a separate communication outreach with stakeholders, not what Burke was doing. She wants to talk to the Constituency/Friends of the Market/crafters etc. She wants to let people know that a master plan is going on.

Skip: The lack of a Merchants Association and the nascent quality of crafts organization should be part of the 50-year plan. They need to be revitalized.

Joan: At last month's PDA meetings, I said that public comments were made but they are never responded to. I recommended that they do respond to concerns of the community. I am concerned about getting answers from the PDA and its consultants. It's looking like a train wreck.

Erik: There's been a lack of an open and transparent process surrounding the Master Plan. During the pandemic, there were small closed meetings talking about the process. In Mary's mind, they've been talking about this for a long time, but they haven't engaged the community in a meaningful way. The Master Plan workshop was held in the afternoon when lots of people are working. Seemed like there were some foregone conclusions. We may need to start pushing sooner than later. We should be e cautious about a work-around from Mary that is engagement in name only.

Skip: First you should define the problem, then seek a solution – the 50-year planning is backwards. What problem will it address?

6:33 p.m. **Election update**

Bruce: Bob is running the election and is not present.

Russell: David Ghoddousi is up for re-election (PDA Council) and is also not present.

Others on the ballot or PDA officer at large (currently David Ott), secretary-treasurer (currently Bruce)

Nick Setten: It would be good to engage the membership on the 50-year plan.

Gordie McIntyre: Bob Braun wants to double our membership, get people to sign up a friend, etc. Many ex-bartenders are hotel concierges. We could reach out to them.

Bob M. James Weaver, in the information booth, was high up in a concierge association. Someone can walk to the booth on the weekend and talk to him.

Nick: April 30 memberships expire, so do we need to move on this now and not wait to the general meeting in April?

Christine Vaughan: Doubling the membership is fine but what will members do? We don't need just names on the list.

Nick: Right on the money. Take a few minutes here right now about what we accomplished in 2022. Running a successful election, advocating for the MHC.

Skip: Where's our bench? We should reach out to the community councils, college poli-sci classes, high schools, and make a pitch for membership and connection to the market.

Bruce: What if we create a paid internship with a local university?

Jerry Baroh: Russell was brought in as an unpaid intern.

Russell: You are correct, but I did a self-study internship and the building blocks were not there. It was kind of difficult. No intern after me.

Nick: Messaging is very important this year. The 50-year master plan presents us with the best the time for members of the Constituency to exercise our duty. We need to tell members we want your voices, we need your voices.

Russell: If we have someone on payroll, they can do a lot of the chores we are talking about – reaching out to concierges etc.

6:57 p.m. **PDA 50-year plan update**

Nick: Scoping budget was approved. Next steps, Methune doing outreach. Before that, Mary and PDA are doing outreach on a number of different fronts.

The Market is built on sandstone. Cracks in the street. Some folks want to explore a carbon neutral Market. The story of the Market for the last 50 years is deferred maintenance. Reach out to me and other PDA reps. It's still early, I'm not stoked about being left out for last year but there is lots of work to do.

Bob M. Next PDA Executive meeting is the kickoff meeting. Mary's group is meeting twice a month. The PDA Council only gets five meetings. We need to raise our attendance.

Erik: We need to push for an open and transparent process. Trust is based on experience. There are a lot of lofty platitudes and nebulous concepts floated. What is it that is being suggested here?

Nick: Along with the membership renewal, let's give a little 50-year master plan update in our monthly newsletter. I voted in favor of this – I haven't seen any ulterior motives. This presents a great chance to work with the plan. That's my hope with it.

Skip: Two new people on PDA Council have experience working through contentious times in large organizations. We should invite those two to our Constituency meeting. Also, there is a requirement for membership dues to be deposited post haste – the most efficient way to do it is to have the PDA office receive the money.

Gordie: Agrees with Erik, the process needs to be brought into the open. Two PDA council reps voted no because of the top-down process. We still need to hold people we are paying accountable. Staff meetings include members of the PDA council – they should be open meetings.

7:17 p.m. **MHC/DON update**

Nick: We won! We had 80 people in two different hearings. It was electrifying. The council voted to unanimously amend the legislation.

Gordie: We had 5 of our 11 Ex Com officers there as well as Heather, Lillian, Friends of Market, Historical Commission people.

7:19 **Change-org Petition update**

Nick: It looks like the petition was closed five months ago. It is still visible, and not sure how to take it down other than reaching out directly to Change.org. I think we can put that to bed.

Skip: Not so quick. Parliamentary procedure makes it clear to not to question the motives of others – that petition is slanderous. Perhaps Gerry Johnson should weigh in. We also need to deal with the official capacity of our chair. I don't want to be insensitive. I think we need to close that issue officially.

Bob Braun arrives (7:20).

Russell: Bob is our interim chair. We could put that on the ballot and make him official.

Bob B: Apologies for being late. I've asked us to leave things alone and not replace Adora. She is well known, actively involved in the Market. I don't know a single incident where we have not been efficient because of this. We are meeting our mission.

Skip: We are not a private club. We are a public entity and we need to adhere to our rules.

7:20 p.m. **Old business**

Nick, Change.org petition has been deleted by change.org, but the page is being indexed by search engines. It is not on Change.org but on Google.

7:30 p.m. **New business**

Heather: DON is preventing the Market Historical Commission from returning its meetings to the Market, which is very concerning. They were supposed to be returned to the Market in July. This is a big red flag.

Nick: Owl has a whole webpage on how to run a meeting on Webex, so more balderdash!

7:30 p.m. **PDA committee reports**

Russell gives an update from the Programs Committee, including a licensing agreement for Pike Place Ale. We are about 25% through the Daystall rules. April 1 the rules take effect. No major or contentious changes.

There was some discussion about the three tables near DeLaurenti and how some of the people starting there have moved into more permanent locations.

Nick: We have four high-stalls left in the Market. People aren't jumping to get into the produce biz.

On 3/15 Wednesday, staff will be presenting recommendations to Programs Committee and committee will vote on the Daystall rules.

Gordie gives an update on FAM. We hired a consultant to get public money to cover expenses for the elevator and approved some painting jobs. Re-upped a bunch of tenants including Alibi Room, BLMF, candy store, Latin grocery store, Radiator Whiskey, and Souk. Most were 5 years.

Bob M. The Bavarian Meats space goes to Hellenic Yogurt. The son of the Ellenos Yogurt founder runs it. Also, Rachel's Ginger Beer will relocate into Market front at ground floor in the north end and will expand with a pub-style menu.

7:45 p.m. **Public comment**

Skip: There is an issue with non-attendance of some executive committee members. We need to reach out and see why they are not attending.

Bob B thanks FoM for being so active in this recent diversion with DON and MHC.

7:49 p.m. The meeting is adjourned