

MINUTES

Pike Place Market Constituency • General Assembly Meeting • May 18, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Tom Graham, chair; Teagan McDonald, vice-chair; David Ghoddousi, Patrick Kerr and Gloria Skouge, PDA Council representatives; Jill Andrews, Liza Couchman, Ben Kirchner and David Ott, members-at-large; Marlis Erickson, James Haydu, Haley Land, Joan Paulson, Michele Peterson, Joe Read, Steve Wilkins, and Dale Wittner, members.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Graham requested flexibility in addressing the agenda order until Market Foundation staff arrived from an overlapping meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Constituency General Assembly approved (10-0-1) dropping the Nominating Committee Report item, as the Bylaws require that report be made to the Executive Committee.

In the absence of any other changes, the meeting agenda was approved by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting on June 23, 2009, whose approval was long deferred due to a photocopying error, were approved by acclamation, subject to correction of the spelling of David Ott's name.

DISCUSSION OF MAYORAL APPOINTMENT TO PDA COUNCIL

Chair Graham opened discussion with the reminder that the term is expiring for mayoral appointee James Savitt, current chair of the PDA Council. During discussion, the following were offered:

- We already have a good mayoral appointee in James Savitt.
- Due to James Savitt's leadership role in improving the performance of the PDA Council, it is important that he retain his seat on the Council.
- Teamsters Local #117 has talked to the mayor about a more pro-union appointee.
- Rumor has it that the mayor has already made the decision to renew James Savitt's appointment, and such decisions are customarily made by mayors without formal announcement of the other, if any, candidates considered.

Upon motion made a seconded, the Constituency General Assembly approved (9-2-1) requesting that Mayor McGinn renew James Savitt's appointment to the Pike Place Market PDA Council.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Haley Land announced the quarterly meeting of the Daystall Tenants Association on May 21st, 5pm to 6pm, at the Desimone Bridge, in response to changes in the Market Street Fair schedule and format.

Chair Graham reported that the new automated parking system voids the early bird rate for cars exiting after 7:30pm and applies the regular rate plus the evening rate for minutes after 7:30pm.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Constituency tabled (11 for; 1 against; 1 abstention) a motion to request the PDA Board address concerns of the Teamsters Local 117 in a timely manner to achieve a better working environment for Pike Place Market, until a new PDA executive director is in place and the issue ripens at contract renewal time in January 2011.

DISCUSSION OF ONGOIN RENOVATION PROCESS

In-depth discussion was deferred to the June meeting, when the topic will be the focus. James Haydu, PDA Director of Communications announced that:

- Seattle City Council member Sally Clark was invited to the June meeting.
- The new Hillclimb ribbon-cutting has been set for August 17th, to coincide with the annual Market Anniversary celebration.
- Renovation Phase I is effectively complete.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT VIRGINIA & WESTERN

Liza Couchman prefaced discussion by stating that PDA staff had urged her to raise the subject and solicit a sharing of history on the issue in response to her suggesting the need for a traffic signal at the double intersection of Virginia Street and Western Avenue. During discussion, the following points were offered:

- It's complicated... pedestrians constantly cross—so much so that even walkers sympathize with drivers.
- It's really complicated... the City has refused to pay for a traffic signal, and the PDA was quoted \$200,000 - \$400,000 for private installation.
- It's more complicated than that... some believe that the dual benefits of a uniformed police officer to conduct traffic and deter crime in Steinbrueck Park are greater than the benefit of a traffic signal, while others believe that an officer can effectively conduct traffic or police the park, but not both.
- It's actually even more complicated than that... the City does not consider the congestion to be a 12-month problem, despite the fact that the traffic back-ups associated with the ferries are an issue throughout the year.
- Changes to the Viaduct may change the situation and the City's response.
- SDOT could be asked to look into funding possibilities under new bicycle and pedestrian programs.
- The issue may best be forwarded by direct communication with the mayor's office, petition or action mailing.

UPDATE ON MARKET STREET FAIR

Market Foundation staff reported that an e-mail survey was conducted of approximately 230 daystall permit holders on the different options for adding tables to the Street Fair to offset displacement by the beer garden and stage, and 25 responses were received. The preference (16) was for the beer garden and stage to at the north end of the Market, with an additional 90 feet of to the north of that allocated to craft tents. During discussion, the following were offered:

- The plan addressed immediate concerns, but does not provide for daystaller input on the planning process in future years.
- The issue will be discussed at the June meeting of the PDA Council Operations & Communications Committee.
- The PDA has a Events Committee of department managers, to which a craftperson could be added, such as the chair of the new Daystall Tenants Association Special Events Committee.

OFFICES REPORTS & NEW BUSINESS

Vice-chair McDonald announced that without a Tenant Alert Notice from the PDA Renovation staff, the Constituency office was entered and left a mess by workmen emptying the adjacent half-space as part of renovation work.

Patrick Kerr announced his resignation from the PDA Council Executive Director Hiring Committee in order to apply for the position of PDA executive director.

Chair Graham noted that the parking system lacked a grievance process. Others noted that the new pay stations block views, are too frequently mistaken for ATMs, and are poorly designed, located and signed. Several speculated on how the kiosks were approved by the Market Historical Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza Jayne Couchman
Acting Secretary