

Pike Place Market Constituency Minutes

Meeting Type: General Assembly, Regular Meeting

Date: May 17, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm PST.

Place: Meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Attendance: Ruth Danner, David Ghoddousi, Adora Lopez, Bruce Rutledge, Gordon McIntyre, Nick Setten, Jerry Baroh, Skip Knox, Bob Messina, Joe Read, Ruth Danner, Haley Land, Joan Paulson, Christine Vaughan and Colleen Bowman.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Constituency Chair, Adora Lopez.

Approval of the Agenda

Hearing no objection, the agenda was approved by acclamation.

Approval of the Minutes

March 15, 2022 General Assembly - postponed

April 19, 2022 General Assembly - approved 12-0

August 17, 2021 General Assembly - postponed

November 16, 2021 General Assembly - postponed

Public Comment

Joan asked that the minutes be circulated to the broader membership. Skip asked for assistance with finding where the minutes are posted on the Constituency's website.

Election Committee Update

Bruce has put together Nomination Committee: Haley, Skip, and Ruth. He said that phone banking needs to be scheduled soon, and asked about the timing of last year's. Nick confirmed that it was in April or May.

Bruce said Nick, Haley and Jerry have been working on a new membership card design. He would like to get it out in the next newsletter. Haley described the design, and explained that they created two versions, one with additional information on the back. Nick Setten said he thought the two versions should be put to a vote before the next General Assembly meeting. Discussion ensued.

Haley suggested including a question in the candidate questionnaire that asks the candidates about their views on closing Pike Place.

Christine asked about election handbook. There are two drafts - one is more of a timeline, one is more of a narrative. Ruth asked if it could be added to the Executive Committee agenda for next week.

Old Business

Discussion about cars on Pike Place. Adora said Mary Bacarella wants to hear the Constituency's views, and appreciates the Constituency's support. Discussion about how Constituency can help. Christine said the decision should be kept in-house, that it's better to have the control by the PDA, not the City. The PDA, being onsite, is able to change things immediately. The City should be reminded that the PDA was formed by the City to manage the Market so it wouldn't have to do it. The message isn't, should there be cars on Pike Place or not; it's that those who have the best knowledge of the Market decide about the street.

Bob suggested that people email the PDA with their opinions.

Nick said there are differing opinions in the Market; he suggested information gathering opportunities, such as a town hall-style meeting.

Skip said he met with Gordon Padelford, director at Seattle Greenways. Skip did not feel that Gordon has an understanding of the Market.

Adora noted that polls have been sent (shared by Seattle Greenways) to Andrew Lewis. She suggested using letters, petitions and flyers to reach the Market community. She said Mary is in support of holding a community meeting.

There was further discussion about ways to reach the Market community and gather input.

David asked if the PDA was working with the police department to make the Market safer; will there be bollards? These are questions people are asking him. He asked about banning bikes; should all wheels be banned? He feels the PDA has been doing a good job managing Pike Place. What is the game plan?

Gordie suggested asking Mary about it during the Executive Committee meeting tomorrow.

Bob suggested asking the PDA to give their opinions on where this is going.

Joan liked the idea of sending letters to the PDA at info@pikeplacemarket.org and also the Constituency. She said she will attend the PDA Council Executive Committee

meeting tomorrow and will ask for an answer back in writing.

Nick said there will be a discussion at the Executive Committee tomorrow, so then it will be in writing. He did not think a separate request to Mary would be necessary.

Ruth said Joan would be asking as an individual and she supported anyone else do that.

Adora said when she met with Mary, Mary said that support from the Constituency would be appreciated, because then she has letters to show the City.

Christine said according to the new bylaws, it is within Joan's ability as a board member to convey questions from the Constituency and ask for an answer, even though there was no motion for it approved by the board.

Colleen reminded everyone that anyone can speak at a meeting, just not speak on behalf of the whole organization.

Skip said there is more danger in having many voices with different messages than a single message.

Gordie said that the PDA Council Executive Committee has always had a representative from the Constituency. Now there are no Constituency members on the Committee. He has brought it up at Council meetings. He suggested that Adora could bring this up the next time she meets with Mary.

New Business

Nick said there should be a discussion at next week's Constituency Executive Committee meeting about where the new by-laws will live, and finalizing the formalization of the by-laws process.

Nick suggested moving forward with a new administrator. Adora said she had talked to Mary about that as well.

Christine updated the Constituency on a move by the Seattle Department of Neighborhood's to make temporary administrative review at the Market permanent, transferring some of the Market Historical Commission's authority to staff instead. Christine noted that since 1971, when the Save the Market Initiative passed, the Commission has been the sole authority on applications for use and design changes at the Market. It's one of the reasons that there is no Dairy Queen or Walmart here. It has worked well for 50 years. During the pandemic, there were some businesses approved by staff, and signs that don't meet the guidelines. There is now talk about making the Commission meetings by moving them to City Hall. That means that applicants and

property owners would have to go to City Hall. This is another way that the authority of those that have responsibility is being whittled away by organizations outside of the Market. Christine reminded everyone that it was the City that wanted to take down the Market 50 years ago.

PDA committee reports

Gordie reported on the Market Programs Committee meeting. He said there was no quorum, so there was just a presentation on gift card available to everyone at the Market.

Nick reported on the Finance and Asset Management Committee meeting - budget, resolutions that passed, and the state of residential vacancies.

Public Comment

Haley brought up special projects for the Constituency. The bylaws make it clear that the Constituency can be the part of the community to support projects. They could help increase membership. He would like to discuss it at the next meeting.

Christine gave the example of the cherry trees at First and Pike, which the Pine-Pike Renaissance project intends to remove.

Joan said she was hoping there would be information on the bylaws at the next meeting. Adora said there was an email sent out about it.

Skip pointed out that the Market was saved by people in Seattle and that the Constituency is isolated now by tall buildings. He suggested the Constituency connect with other neighborhoods and noted that it would raise awareness of the community in the Market.

The discussion returned to Joan's request to have information about the bylaws included at the Executive Committee meeting. Christine said that it's a full membership issue. Adora said she would like to schedule it for the next General Assembly.

8:02 p.m. Meeting adjourned.