

Public Market Advisory Commission

Thursday, January 26, 2012
City Hall Council Chambers
Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Municipal Bldg
301 E Huron St

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Members Present: (5) D. Barkman, S. Brines, A. Germain, D. Santacroce, L. Hard

Staff Present: (1) M. Notarianni

Guests: (1) Elissa Trumbull

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Special Presentations

a. Elissa Trumbull, Market Inspector

Review of the inspection process, questions from commissioners. Hard copies of applications and inspection reports are used to compare what vendors are applying to bring to market versus what they have on their farms. An update on the number of farms who have been inspected in the last 2 years. Not all vendors were inspected in the last 2 years; obligation to the public to do all inspections on the specified timeline. Challenge of farms with three season operations (products change on the farm 3 times per year). The schedule or pace of visits is still a work in progress.

Does the report cover the salient points of the application?

Elissa recommends improvements including more alignment with the application, asking for receipts for seeds, etc.. Molly suggests perhaps a separate inspector for artisans.

Question/goal: ways to make the inspection process reflective of the markets goals and rules. Looking into ways to document a problem during an inspection (camera, video).

5. Public Commentary – Agenda items only (3 minutes per speaker)

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting of December 1, 2011

7. Commission Business

a. Old Business

(1) Vendor / Customer Survey

Many customers did not know about the 5 dollar tokens. Many people said they come to the market year round. Ongoing challenge of limited parking. Discussion of involving a school at University of Michigan or a class who could do a new survey and give feedback on the results from the survey. Shannon requests that the commissioners review the surveys again and look for items to work on in the near future.

b. New Business

(1) New Vendor Discussion

Applications for recycled clothing, sweet potato pies, fruit, pies, glass art.

Molly's plan to give more information upfront about policies and space availability to interested applicants.

The market could use more organic fruit, grains, cheese, honey, dried beans.

8. Reports and Communications

a. Market Manager

Kindle Fest took place. Wednesday markets came to a slow end at the end of the year. Planning to continue to Wednesday Evening market next year. Molly wrote a year-end report for food assistance programs. Inspections have been on hiatus but will resume shortly. Volunteers will come in to do customer counts in February. Molly announces that she will leave her position as the market manager in March.

b. Related Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Task Forces

c. Items from Commissioners

Shannon Brines reminds the committee that he will be leaving the Commission shortly. A position for the Daily Vendor will be open on the Commission. Applications can be made through the Mayor's Office.

Discussion of how the public and vendors are alerted to open commission position.

d. Transmittals/communications received

9. Public Commentary – General (3 minutes per speaker)

10. Adjournment