



1
2
3
4
5

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR-PUBLIC MARKET ADVISORY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
5/29/08**

6
7

1. Call to Order

8 The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by P. Pollack.
9

10
11

2. Roll Call

12 Members Present: (4) S. Brines, D. Black, K. King, P. Pollack

13 Members Absent: (1) G. Service

14 Staff Present: (1) M. Notarianni

15 Guests: (0)
16

17
18

3. Special Presentations

19
20

4. Public Commentary-Agenda Items only (3 minutes per speaker)

21 L. Vazquez: I am disappointed that the packet was posted only this morning on the city's
22 website. I question if the city is truly concerned in hearing the input of the public. In
23 conjunction with the market renovations, I would like to express my solidarity with the
24 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in their message that jobs related to the
25 renovations should be Union jobs. I feel all construction jobs in Ann Arbor should be
26 done by contractors using Union workers, and at the very least, with people hired locally.
27 I filed a FOIA request that was denied, mostly, and I am wondering why that is. When
28 citizens say they want to be part of the public process, I feel this organization should be
29 transparent as any other in the city.
30

31 In regards to the inspection form, it needs a publication date on it, so we can track when
32 revisions are made on it. Will baked goods at market be inspected? It is not listed on the
33 form. Will apiaries be inspected? What if the address of one vendor corresponds with
34 another vendor's address, or if the address is different than the vendor's location to sell.
35

36 Molly said the market inspector does not inspect vendor's licenses, however these items
37 are listed on the inspection form. Why? Who reviews these applications? Is it the
38 commission, or some other body?
39

40 Order forms and receipts: I think this is a good requirement, but I think it should apply
41 also to baked goods, and they should be made from scratch. Former commissioner Scott
42 Newell had a great idea for baked goods, and the information he suggested should be
43 included. If I don't feel like I can commissioners and the city to be forthcoming with

44 information, than I will have to resort to “voting with my dollars,” and shopping only at
45 vendors whom I trust and know at the market. I would like to see more emphasis on
46 organics.

47

48 In terms of seniority, I support the idea of seniority encompassing carbon footprint. We
49 should have more local growers at the market.

50

51 **5. Approval of Agenda**

52

53 **6. Approval of Minutes**

54

55 **7. Commission Business**

56

57 **a. Old Business**

58

59 **(1) Subcommittees**

60

61 **a. Seniority**

62

63 P. Pollack: We haven’t had any additional meetings, but we stopped last time with the
64 notion of what criteria might be. If we can leave here with assignments, we can consider
65 us a committee as a whole, so we will be prepared for the main discussion. Perhaps the
66 label “Seniority” may have to change if it includes circumstances in addition to length of
67 time at the market, such as carbon footprint.

68

69 S. Brines: Maybe we could come up with more concrete things written down from a
70 subcommittee, and then move towards vendor and public meetings.

71

72 P. Pollack: I think preparing such information for the next meeting is a good idea. I also
73 agree that the agenda and minutes should be up earlier, so we can get a rhythm
74 established. As an assignment, let’s take a week and get back to Molly and myself our
75 thoughts, regarding seniority, from our discussions. We’ll compile that information and
76 send it back out, as discussion points for the next meeting.

77

78 S. Brines: Specifically, I’d like to see peoples’ thoughts regarding how seniority is
79 integrated into the existing system, whether that is a grandfathered clause or additional
80 conditions...and it is important to make clear that this information would only be a draft
81 at this point in time.

82

83 D. Black: I have heard the mediation brought up, and thought perhaps the issue has
84 already been dealt with, to some degree...

85

86 P. Pollack: The mediation was either 9 or 10 years ago, so it has been a significant
87 amount of time. There have been changes in the market and changes in people, as well as
88 the proposed physical changes in the market, so I think this is a good time to reevaluate
89 seniority.

90

91 K. King: Especially with the market renovation, we really need to have a seniority
92 assessment committee, because so many new issues regarding stalls are going to arise.

93
94 P. Pollack: Who do you see as members of such a committee??

95
96 K. King: The market manager, of course, and a number of Council members...I would
97 consider a representative of the Grower's Association, and a Daily grower. As with any
98 economy, when you put a certain value on any item, such as these stalls, then there
99 becomes a stronger need to decide who gets what. Another approach would be to look at
100 what the privileges of seniority are, and how far they reach. Maybe it isn't something
101 that is so worth struggling for...

102
103 **b. Promotion and Education**

104
105 M. Notarianni: Since our last meeting, there hasn't been a lot of new activity in
106 promotion and education. I have run some print ads, I am working on collaborations with
107 Slow Food Huron Valley, and am planning a bike-to-market event, tentatively scheduled
108 for July 12th. I would love to have some sort of Harvest festival in the fall.

109
110 D. Black: There will be an Indian festival on Fourth Ave, at the end of September.

111
112 P. Pollack: The bike to market event is a good reminder that there aren't any bike racks
113 at market.

114
115 M. Notarianni: We've ordered some through the DDA.

116
117 P. Pollack: This is also a reminder to Jeff Dehring, for Phase II of the improvements.
118 We need space not only for normal bikes, but also extended bike spaces, for family visits.

119
120 I learned about a restaurant that, once a week, features a meal from local food, directly in
121 conjunction with the market, after the market. Take a walk through the market, and join
122 us for a meal afterwards. It would have to be lunch on Saturday, but that could also be
123 great.

124
125 Maybe you could list promotion and educational events in your reports...and that's also
126 where the newsletter can begin to have a presence announcing some of these events as
127 well. KDA is planning to put out a monthly newsletter, which will also include dates in
128 it.

129
130 M. Notarianni: I will send you a list of my ideas, and we can prioritize events to focus
131 on.

132
133 P. Pollack: Sandwich boards on Main St. that direct customers to the Farmers Market are
134 a good idea as well.

135
136 **(2) Market Renovation Update**

137

138 M. Notarianni: The solar panels are in! Phase I –a mapping of the market’s electrical
139 circuitry-will start soon.

140

141 P. Pollack: The vendors will want to know when the pressure washing and painting will
142 occur...it might be helpful to share the construction schedule with both vendors at market
143 and the public. It might be really beneficial for the design team/contractors could be
144 available at market on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to field questions.

145

146 D. Black: Is it appropriate for this body to discuss the Union picketers that were present
147 at market last Wednesday?

148

149 S. Brines: We could pass a resolution representing what we think, but those decisions
150 [regarding who to hire for renovations] are made by City Council.

151

152 P. Pollack: We, as a commission, support the general concept that local; closer to home,
153 is better.

154

155 M. Notarianni: An educational kiosk, in conjunction with the Hands-On Museum, will
156 be installed at market describing the solar panels.

157

158 P. Pollack: The location of that will be important, so that it supplements, but doesn’t get
159 in the way of, customer activity at market.

160

161 **(3) Inspection update**

162

163 M. Notarianni: Inspections continue. A list of the recently inspected vendors has been
164 included in the packet. I also created a letter outlining inspections that was distributed to
165 all vendors, as recommended at the last PMAC meeting.

166

167 P. Pollack: What kind of response, if any, did you get from vendors regarding the letter?

168

169 M. Notarianni: What I did hear was good.

170

171 P. Pollack: Any more news from Matt about doing inspections *at* the market?

172

173 M. Notarianni: Yes; this has become part of his agenda as well.

174

175 **b. New Business**

176 **(1) Vendor Selection and Market Mix**

177

178 M. Notarianni: I have been receiving a lot of applications from new vendors, and wanted
179 to touch base with all Commissioners on this.

180

181 S. Brines: I agree with your decision to disallow a franchise to sell at market. So far, all
182 your selections of new vendors have been good so far.

183

184 D. Black: I agree.

185

186 K. King: In our market mission statement we also include the phrase “in collaboration
187 with other local enterprises,” and we need to make sure we don’t include vendors who
188 compete with Kerrytown.

189

190 P. Pollack: What other kinds of vendors may there be that are not yet represented at the
191 market? If we are successful in building up the Wednesday market, then that is a great
192 opportunity for new products to begin showing up. We might give some thought to what
193 that market mix is, and even have a column in the newsletter regarding what may be
194 missing. What do the customers want?

195

196 M. Notarianni: According to our rules, our jurisdiction is Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.
197 Would you be interested in inviting a vendor who has a unique product that wasn’t
198 represented at market from one of those states?

199

200 P. Pollack: It’s interesting, because there are some parts of Ohio that are a lot closer than
201 Michigan! I believe the uniqueness of the product the vendor offers is the most
202 important...

203

204 **8. Reports and Communications**

205

206 **a. Market Manager**

207

208 M. Notarianni: We received a grant to participate in the Grow Your Kids Social
209 Marketing Campaign, and will also be participating in Project Fresh. Wednesday
210 markets are going well, with los of new vendors.

211

212 P. Pollack: Contact with the Ann Arbor Housing Department may be a good resource for
213 promotion of the EBT program. There was a bit of discussion about hours for the
214 Wednesday market, and it may be a good idea to track activity for the latter hours of both
215 Wednesday and Saturday markets.

216

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

218

219 P. Pollack: We might want to start to think about meeting with PAC.

220

221 **c. Items from Commissioners**

222

223 S. Brines: This commission fully intends to be open, and the comment regarding agendas
224 and packets being posted online earlier is well taken.

225

226 **d. Transmittals/communications received**

227

228 None to report on.

229

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

231

232 L. Vazquez: The mediation was mentioned, and it was in 1998. Not all the vendors were
233 entirely happy with the outcome of that mediation. It was a flawed outcome that
234 benefitted few at the expense of many. Now you have the opportunity to correct some of
235 the flaws that came out of the mediation, and I encourage you to keep all avenues open.

236 There has been some discussion about extending the market's hours; perhaps on
237 Saturday you could have a second market in the afternoon to allow other vendors a
238 chance to sell. Perhaps there needs to be an incentive for vendors to come on
239 Wednesday. The easiest thing to do with seniority would be leave it as it is, but I
240 encourage you not to.

241

242 **10. Adjournment**

243

244 Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

245

246