

# City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, July 20, 2023

5:30 PM

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**Public Market Advisory Commission**

**A CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

**B ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 3 - Peter Woolf, Lisa Young, and Jeff Nemeth

**C APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Woolf, seconded by Nemeth, that the Agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair Young declared the motion carried.

**D FIRST PUBLIC COMMENTARY (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY) - (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

This is an opportunity for persons to speak up to 3 minutes about an issue that is listed as a public hearing on this agenda. To comment on such matters, please call: (877) 853 5247 or (888) 788 0099 and enter meeting ID# 996 0818 6500. City staff will select callers that have 'raised their hand' one-by-one. In order to electronically raise your hand to indicate your desire to speak, please press \*9 on your phone. You will hear an automated announcement that the host is allowing you to speak. Please state your name and address at the beginning of your comments.

No public commentary provided

**E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A motion was made by Woolf, seconded by Nemeth, that the Minutes of the previous meeting be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair Young declared the motion carried.

**G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)****I. General Updates**

- a. New Vendors
- b. Returning Vendor Invoices
- c. Events
- d. Facility & Repairs
- e. PMAC openings

a. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that 4 new vendors have started at market in the month of July. These include: Deliteacious, a vendor that had been with us pre-pandemic but is now coming back. Cedar Field Farm, a new vegetable farm focusing on heirloom varieties of produce who is attending Wednesday market. Bracy Gold Bison, a bison ranch from Ohio who is attending Wednesday market, and P.K. Knife Sharpening, who is already a big hit at our Saturday market.

b. Market Manager Stauffer said that all annual status vendors paid their fees except for 1, and that 1 will be relinquishing their seniority/annual status. This leaves 13 unassigned stalls going into this year's stall move-up. 1 of those spots will be claimed by artisan Dayna Brooks, so that 6 vendors will be able to get their seniority this year.

c. Market Manager Stauffer discussed how the events have been doing very well. The first Food Truck Rally was yesterday and the most attended yet, both in terms of vendors and customers. There will be 3 more this season. She mentioned that the cooking demo series has also been very well attended so far and that there are 2 more left for the season. Lastly, she talked about how the Wednesday market events and 'community day' programming have been going great. We have consistently had live music, food trucks, community groups attending, and a successful story time for kids series.

d. Market Manager Stauffer addressed the crumbling concrete in the stalls, and the usual issues with dented and broken gutters, drain pipes, and electrical boxes. She also mentioned the building foundation washout/construction project that Adam Fercho is here to give a presentation about.

e. Market Manager Stauffer updated the Commission that new daily vendor representative Jeb Booge was just appointed this week but that a Kerrytown representative is still needed.

## **II. Continuing Conversations**

Park Planner and Landscape Architect Adam Fercho gave a presentation about the problems with the market office building foundation. He said that there is a large hold in the corner of the office building foundation and they are trying to figure out what is

going on with the wash-out since they are not sure how it is happening. They did an initial exploration to access what is happening and are waiting for the report back from the contractor. In the meantime, they will back-fill with gravel to wait for that information and see how they will proceed. Chair Young asked Fercho about overall plans for the market building to make it more accessible with winterization. She wants to move forward with the visioning of that. Park Planner Fercho answered that it is tied to the ADA audit and looking at what the options are for a re-do of the building. Commissioner Woolf asked about the timeline and process to get more understanding. Park Planner Fercho explained the prioritization of the ADA needs and how it is being plugged into capital improvements with the highest priority areas first. They are also being guided by grants and other forms of funding that are available to move forward with each project.

a. Bylaw Changes

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19nlmGMejFNTDPkGxRpGMES-5hSm2k-UEurGNZA20gM/edit>

a. PMAC continued its conversation about the bylaw updates, including modifications in process and questions for the clerk. Specifically, who could the other members be? Would it be easier if at large members are added to include more people. The clerk has been asking about the number changes and we are waiting to hear back. Commissioner Nemeth thought that expanding PMAC membership would throw off the balance of vendors and others in the community. His other concern was if quorum gets thrown off, but Commissioner Woolf answered that expanding the membership would make it easier to have quorum and vote. The commissioners wanted to wait until the next meeting to hear more input from new member Jeb Booge.

Producer Only Subcommittee conversations have been tabled until the new commissioner joins next meeting.

b. Stall numbers for annual vendors/vendor survey

b. In discussing the vendor survey to be sent out, Chair Young wanted to ask what challenges there are for vendors and if they could rank them. She specifically wants to know if winterization is a high priority? Chair Young and Vice Chair Woolf both offered to help with data analysis from the survey.

**H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

Chair Young wants to explore the possibilities of having a few in person meetings and have PMAC vote on that.

**J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)**

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Public Commentary provided by:

Community Member Ken Garber: He said that he loves the market and it glad to hear about the commitment to sustainability and zero waste, and glad to hear the Ecology Center was at the food truck rally helping customers sort waste. He said that his comments tonight are specifically about single- use plastics and we are currently in the midst of plastic-free July. He would like to see restrictions on single-use plastics at the market and wants to see if this can be done. Market Manager Stauffer answered that the market supports sustainability and plastic reductions and have many vendors that already use paper, bamboo, and compostable options. However, farmers face specific constraints due to the Food Safety Modernization Act and needing to be able to sanitize containers to be able to reuse them, and also how some biodegradable bag options on the market do not keep salad and greens fresh very long, leading to more food waste, but that the market is exploring if there are any grant funding opportunities out there to help vendors cover the costs of purchasing more sustainable packaging.

Artisan Vendor Debbie Marx: She appreciates being able to participate by phone. She wants to see a regular power washing of the market and removal of bird nests. Specifically, she would like to see it power-washed twice per month. She also wanted to add that she does not just want winterization, she wants the market to be better equipped for rain and all weather, including solar heat. She wants to thank everyone for discussing this and is looking forward to Jeb Booge joining us.

**L      ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm**

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**City Clerk's Office  
301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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