

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, October 16, 2025

5:30 PM

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Public Market Advisory Commission

A CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Young called to order at 5:32pm

B ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Lisa Young, James Booge IV, Emma Hardy, Will Brinkerhoff, Marcus Flores, and Karlene Goetz

Absent: 1 - Jeff Nemeth

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Booge IV, seconded by Brinkerhoff, that Agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, Chair Young declared the motion carried.

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

No commentary provided

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Booge IV, seconded by Young, that the September Minutes be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, Chair Young declared the motion carried.

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

- a. Welcome new PMAC members!
- b. Vendor Stall Move-Up
- c. Staffing Updates
- d. Events, Marketing, & Outreach
- e. Grants & Research
- f. Facility/Repairs
- g. Neighboring Construction Updates

I. General Updates

- a. Welcome new PMAC members!

Market Manager Stauffer welcomed the new members to the body and said that she would be happy to answer any question that they have, and that so would other PMAC members that have been on the commission for a bit of time. All commissioners introduced themselves to each other, and market staff did as well. Chair Young introduced herself as a faculty member at UM and teaches classes in Anthropology about local food. Commissioner Booge said he has been a candle vendor at market since 2018 and is the current daily status vendor representative. Commissioner Hardy Emma introduced herself as the Kerrytown neighborhood representative on PMAC and a PhD student working on food concepts and local food. She said she also works for vendor Two Tracks Acres and has worked for other vendors in the past at market and is also a regular customer so has many connections to the market. Commissioner Flores said he is originally from Ann Arbor & is a Master's student in social work & public health at Michigan who will complete his degree next year. Commissioner Brinkerhof said he is a PhD candidate at Michigan currently studying food systems and sustainable agriculture, and also a frequent marketgoer, shopper, and cook. He said he is also from Ann Arbor and is a 'townie.' Commissioner Goetz said she has been a vendor at market since ~2000. She said she wanted to join PMAC since her sons want to continue in the business and want to see the market continue to flourish for her sons and others into the future. Market Manager Stauffer introduced herself as market manager since 2020, who is also a Sociologist with a dissertation topic that covered urban agriculture, local food movements, and farmers markets. Assistant Market Manager Whittaker-Mitts introduced themselves as a recent graduate from Michigan with concentrations in Food Systems/Environmental Science and English. They said they are here to attend and learn more about the process, the PMAC members, and the market itself.

b. Vendor Stall Move-Up

Market Manager Stauffer said that the annual vendor stall move-up happened on September 20 after market and went very smoothly. She said that there were 6 vendors that gained their annual status- 1 artisan and 5 producers. She also said that not all the stalls were claimed so that they will go back into the pool to select from for the 2026 move-up and in the meantime that will give market staff some flexibility to place daily vendors in more consistent spots that are not assigned to annual status vendors. Stauffer also explained a bit about the market seniority process and what it means for vendors to

gain their permanently assigned stalls.

c. Staffing Updates

Since Market Manager Stauffer already introduced new Assistant Market Manager Jade earlier, the only update she provided in this section that the market will have an additional new Assistant Market Manager joining at the end of November, Tyler Moss, with a main focus on conducting market vendor inspections. Stauffer said that he has done site visits before when he worked for the Pittsburgh Food Bank and completed a Master's in business project about vermicomposting initiatives.

d. Events, Marketing, & Outreach

Market Manager Stauffer said that last night was the final Food Truck Rally for the season. 15 food trucks, carts, and pop-ups attended, plus live music by Root Cause Analysis and zero waste event support by the Ecology Center. Stauffer also said that since the food truck rallies have concluded and cooking demo series concluded in September, our last special event for the season is the Wednesday Market Trick or Treat event coming up on October 29. That event will be held this year in collaboration with the new Parks events coordinator Tory and will feature lawn games, costumes, decorations, pumpkin decorating, and more.

In terms of marketing and outreach, Stauffer said that new Assistant Market Manager Whittaker-Mitts has been very helpful already- helping specifically with socials on Wednesdays, market events listings in the gov delivery emails, creating infographics, and more.

e. Grants & Research

Market Manager Stauffer said that the Fair Food Network grant check has been deposited into the market account. She mentioned that the process often takes a while to go through due to the high nature of the grant that needs City Council approval to go forward. Stauffer also said that luckily the Fair Food Network Double Up Food Bucks funding has been maintained by the Michigan budget, in spite of the concerns Fair Food Network had expressed about it not being maintained. She also explained a bit about how the program works and where the funding comes from.

Market Manager Stauffer also mentioned we are still waiting for results from the USDA FMPP MSU survey, but the study is still on-going and will share it when we have it. She said that the market did receive the check to cover the tokens that encouraged students

to come to the market and fill out the survey & become new customers.

f. Facility/Repairs

Market Manager Stauffer explained the process for facility repairs requests to the new PMAC members, and gave examples of common repairs that are needed, like dings on the market roof, drain pipe damages, electrical issues, and crumbling concrete. She also said that at the moment there are no major issues and now that the demolition project is fully complete, the focus can be put back on market repairs and upkeep. With that said, Commissioner Goetz asked if the market can be power-washed sooner rather than later. Market Manager Stauffer agreed that it needs to happen and will ask Park Operations again about when that can happen.

Market Manager Stauffer also explained a bit of background on how the market office building demolition came about and why they had to demolish the structure before having a plan in place and community engagement process complete before doing so.

Chair Young reminded everyone to check the engage Ann Arbor website to stay informed with information on the upcoming community engagement process for this project, as well as other developments surrounding the market area.

g. Neighboring Construction Updates

Market Manager Stauffer gave an overview of all the construction projects surrounding the market, and how the market's upcoming community engagement process and eventual market office replacement and market improvements will play into it. She mentioned each project in detail and provided elements of the details known and not yet known about 330 Detroit Street, Dunbar Tower, 303 Detroit Street, and Braun Court. The upside she mentioned is that our market construction process is not adding to the other construction stresses. Commissioner Brinkerhoff said the presentation answered some of the questions he had about the various developments surrounding the market.

H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Market Manager Stauffer said next month's meeting will be in person at City Hall on November 20. She did not yet have a location from

the City Clerk so she said it was unclear whether it will be held in the basement or in City Council Chambers. Chair Young asked if Karlene could potentially call in or be online instead of in person since it may be difficult for her to get to the in person meeting on November 20. Market Manager Stauffer said that CTN should have that information and it partially depends on what location our meeting will be in- basement conference room or City Council Chambers.

Market Manager Stauffer encouraged new Commissioners to ask procedural questions or other questions that they maybe wanted to know more about and everyone is still absorbing the information. She also clarified that the market is in year 106 of operation and that the market has been open since 1930 at our current location, so there are certain long-lived questions about the facility. She also mentioned that vendors really care a lot about the space and have a lot of investment in it and we need to work together to help market look its best.

J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

Vendor Debbie Marx provided public commentary. She said she wants to welcome Jade & new members on PMAC. She also mentioned the bird nest removal and said that the City has a timeframe and procedure that local businesses can use to remove the birds the correct way without harming them and really wants to see this be put into action at the market. She emphasized that they continue to be an issue and it would be nice to remove them.

L ADJOURNMENT

Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm

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