

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, September 18, 2025

5:30 PM

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Public Market Advisory Commission

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 5:32pm

B ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Lisa Young, Jeff Nemeth, James Booge IV, and Emma Hardy

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Booge IV, seconded by Nemeth, that the 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)

vendor Karlene Goetz provided public commentary about stall move-up coming up on September 20. She said that Annual vendors who wish to move up can change multiple stalls at the same time once per session, not one at a time. Market Manager Stauffer said that she must have stated it incorrectly when discussing the process.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

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

- a. Vendor Stall Move-Up
- b. Staffing
- c. Marketing, Outreach, & Events
- d. Grants & Research
- e. New PMAC members
- f. Facility/Repairs Updates
- g. Neighboring Construction Updates
- h. Producer Only Subcommittee Updates

a. Vendor Stall Move-Up

Market Manager Stauffer said that the annual vendor stall move-up process is coming up on Saturday. Stauffer mentioned that vendors had asked whether or not Marvin Parker's stall 13 will be given up after his passing a few weeks ago. She said his family will not be relinquishing their stall and will be moving forward with the transfer of seniority process. She said she spoke with Marv's sister last week to confirm and will be sending them the transfer application that they have 90 days to complete. and confirmed last week and will be sending them the transfer application.

Stauffer said there are 12 open stalls, so there are 6 vendors who will be gaining their seniority, 5 producers & 1 artisan. She also said she had given the vendors who had requested in person and via email the list of which stalls are available, and a refresher on the stall move-up rules. Chair Young clarified that market manager Stauffer had made sure the vendors who don't use email received the same messages and she mentioned that she printed out the documents and spoke to the Shetler family and others already.

b. Staffing

Market Manager Stauffer said that Jade Whittaker-Mitts will be joining and is on HR's timeline now. She said they are UM graduate, Argus Farm Stop staff person, and a friend of Assistant Market Manager Ill Lunia Oriol, although Lunia recused herself throughout the hiring process. Jade was selected because of the questions asked about food assistance, market operations, and overall strong background in food systems as well as marketing and outreach. Stauffer also said that one of the candidates interviewed for this Assistant Market Manager also seems like they would be a strong candidate for the other Inspector position, especially since they have experience doing site visits at farms in their last job. They also seemed amenable to the idea of inspections when asked during their interview.

Chair Young asked whether we had to re-open the job posting for

that position and Stauffer said that HR said that market staff can use the same applicant pool for the other position, as long as they are able to be available however far in the future we want to have that position be covered.

c. Marketing, Outreach, & Events

Market Manager Stauffer said that the September Food Truck Rally was last night. 10 trucks and 7 carts/popups attended, plus live henna pop-up Surya Mehndi, and Ecology Center helping facilitate waste sorting. She said that they also had wonderful volunteers organized through Parks Department's Give 365 volunteering arm to help with the set-up and take-down of table, chairs, trash, signs, etc. Chair Young asked how volunteering in that capacity is arranged and Stauffer explained it is organized internally within the Parks Department- after the initial request for assistance is made, they try to get someone to fill the time slots and task and go from there. Stauffer said it is how in the past the holiday lights have been put up, with the exception of the year that market staff and commissioner Booge did it themselves. She touched a bit on the restructuring going on within Parks events and volunteering, which led to this new set-up. Stauffer also said that the new Parks Events person will be helping us to facilitate our Trick or Treat at the market event coming up on the last Wednesday of October during market.

Stauffer also mentioned that the Cooking Demo last Wednesday was the 5th and last for the year, featuring Ukrainian style crepes made by Alex & his wife Iryna of Ukrainian Homemade Food. They made sweet and savory crepes with market ingredients, including Alex's own honey since he is a beekeeper. They also used Kapnick peaches, and smoked salmon from Monahan's.

Market Manager Stauffer also mentioned that the Local Food Festival had a great turnout, great weather, and a great produce tasting that she was involved in cutting the produce for. Chair Young said that she attended and was happy with the increased turnout for the version this year and hopes it will keep growing into the future.

Stauffer also said that the market submitted its advertising for the newest edition of EdibleWOW magazine that is coming out soon, and she continues to do marketing on social media, and listing market events in the Ann Arbor Observer.

She also noted that we have not had to do much outreach for the

amount of inquiries we get for new vendors, partnerships, and community groups. Even though we are not taking any more inquiries for this year, she said that the market still gets regular requests for people wanting to apply from all classes of vendors.

d. Grants & Research

Market Manager Stauffer said the USDA FMPP student pivot was a huge success on September 6. 100 students stopped by to take the survey and redeem their \$10 in market tokens, and we ran out of tokens by 12:30 with some students upset we had run out so quickly.

e. New PMAC members

Market Manager Stauffer said that Will Brinkerhof & Marcus Flores were approved in the September 15 City Council meeting. She said we are next waiting on the City Clerk to update the Granicus site and other items needed to happen to get them finalized. Vendor Karlene Goetz still needs to be voted on. Her process is different since she needs 7 votes to be confirmed as a non-resident member. Stauffer said hopefully she will be processed soon.

f. Facility/Repairs Updates

Stauffer said the concrete slab is completed by the West end of the office aisle, marking the last component of our demolition project being completed. It is the triangular shape and size since that is the largest concrete area that Park Operations could do themselves. Parks supervisors said they don't want to do the whole area in concrete since it will just get damaged by staging for 303 Detroit Street development project.

Park Operations replanted the Veterans for Peace pole in flower bed along 4th Ave where the market sign is. It had been in storage since being moved from the pocket park at the market ahead of the demolition of the old office. Veterans for peace will be having a re-dedication ceremony

Local chalk artist David Zinn created some secret art in the market. Where is it? Have you seen it? Market Manager Stauffer said that it is a squirrel and a mouse, and it is somewhere under the market roof structure. Chair Young said it would be fun to post the picture and ask the public if they can find it. Stauffer said she has the picture ready to go but had a lot of promotion that needed to happen first for special events.

g. Neighboring Construction Updates

Market Manager Stauffer said that Remy is still negotiating the plan for the 303 Detroit Street staging, but we already know that it will be 18 feet from the market roof with fence along the building flush where it already is. Stauffer said that she is not sure if the sidewalk will be maintained or not, but there will definitely be the parking maintained so Nemeth & other vendors don't have to lose parking again in that area. Commissioner Hardy said that she knows the building will be disruptive during construction but is excited that the new building will be great since the other one was not active. Chair Young expressed concerns about how disruptive that project will potentially be.

h. Producer Only Subcommittee Updates

Commissioner Hardy said she has spoken with Karlene Goetz a little bit but not much due to it being high seasons for farmers. She said they are waiting for the inspector staffing piece to be completed to be able to move forward with this discussion.

H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)**

Vendor Debbie Marx said that she did see the David Zinn piece in the market and said it was thrilling. She also thanked everyone on PMAC for all their work since she said that other vendors don't say it enough. She said she will see us at the market.

L ADJOURNMENT

Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm

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