

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, November 21, 2024

5:30 PM

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Public Market Advisory Commission

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Woolf called the meeting to order at 5:34

B ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Peter Woolf, Lisa Young, Jeff Nemeth, and Emma Hardy

Absent: 1 - James Booge IV

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Debbie Marx, vendor for over 30 years & Ann Arbor resident. She wants to ask about the Christmas decorations and when are they going up. She said she asked vendors for wreath donations. She also asked about the holiday music.

Christine Schopieray, artisan vendor at the market from Ann Arbor. She said she was eager for the new market and reconstructing market and that she would be attending if it was warmer since her arthritis is keeping her away.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Hardy, seconded by Young, that the Minutes from the October Meeting be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, Chair Woolf declared the motion carried.

G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)

- I. General Updates**
 - a. Events**
 - b. Vendor Updates**
 - c. MIFMA Rapid Market Assessment Report**
 - d. Staff Trainings**
 - e. Facility/Repairs**
 - f. 330 Detroit & 121 Catherine Construction Updates**
 - g. Other Potential Construction Projects**

I. General Updates

a. Events

Market Manager Stauffer said the Holiday lights are going up Dec. 3 w/ GIVE365 and KDA funding coming in due to Kindelfest sponsorship. Market is matching the \$250 funding KDA is providing for new lights. Nutcracker performance this Saturday w/ iballet studio. Vibeman John coming for Saturdays in December. Question about holidays music & whether or not we can do it with the PA.

b. Vendor Updates

Stauffer Spoke about the new 5 vendors that are coming to join us. Vice Chair Young asked about who leaves and who is coming. Commissioner Hardy asked about whether or not we think about if the business is the only job of that particular vendor. Chair Woolf asked questions as well about the vendor selection process.

Market Manager Stauffer said that the disruption of vendor payments is being worked out- checks have been somewhat sporadic. Also discussed the mail disruption & issue market staff had with making sure Senior Project Fresh/Market Fresh coupons were postmarked at the right time.

c. MIFMA Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) Report

Good discussion about what the RMA thoughts were. Commissioners asked if there was anything surprising to market staff in there. Market Manager Stauffer said the lack of restrooms signage was one. Chair Woolf asked about how to compare it to last RMA even though it was for a winter market in 2016.

d. Staff Trainings

Stauffer discussed the MIFMA racial equity training she attended in Lansing yesterday. How the overall goal of the two-year long training is to provide funding for projects to help the market better meet equity goals. Stauffer mentioned that the Food access year end meeting is this week- Hannah & Lunia will attend. Stauffer is not sure that she can attend. She also mentioned her work on the MIFMA policy advocacy committee, with a focus on project fresh

modernization projects as well as Cottage Food Law expansions and improvements. Stauffer said there was another training about Michigan cottage food law advocacy around raising the income cap on how much people are making, driving by the desire to increase the cap on maple syrup sales.

e. Facility/Repairs

Market Manager Stauffer said that Parks Operations repainted the yellow lines around the market and that we are currently waiting for fixes on some of the non-functioning outlets in the stalls. She said that the other areas of crumbling concrete and holes in the sidewalk are waiting for community engagement process & demolition of the building to fix those.

f. 330 Detroit & 121 Catherine Construction Updates

Stauffer said that MAVD has been hard to work with but their project is getting closer to completion and has been minimally disruptive recently. Stauffer said that the 121 Catherine Construction team is easier to work with than MAVD although there had been disruptive issues with road closings and construction machinery blocking access to the market parking lot. Stauffer said that to address this, O'Neal Construction did take it upon themselves to make signs for the market about the road closure & have had conversations about letting us know in advance a bit more.

g. Other Potential Construction Projects

Market Manager Stauffer discussed the Braun Court project and how the first 2 houses have been demolished. She said we are not sure what the timeline is but above market rate housing will be going in in that space. It is a different construction company than 121 Catherine Street.

303 Detroit Street- Stauffer mentioned that the plan was for the building to be converted into housing in a project that will add another story on top of the currently existing building next to the market. She has questions about if the footprint expands to touch the old market office building? She said she had been told by City staff that it should start no sooner than 12 months out from now but not much information available yet. Chair Woolf & Vice Chair Young expressed an interest in attending Planning Commission meetings to ask for information and more accountability.

II. Market Office Demolition/Renovation Project Updates

January-April demolition schedule. Adam Fercho returns from paternity leave in January & will begin RFP for community engagement process.

H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Chair Woolf presented his 2 initiatives proposal. Commissioner Hardy talked about the end of the day practices at Two Tracks Acres where they don't want to advertise prices reductions since people would still pay full price. She mentioned that they do have seconds though throughout the day. Commissioner Nemeth asked: do we really want to train people to wait until the end of the day sales? Although he thought it was not really a concern for Ann Arbor. Talked about Dave Sullivan old vendor who wanted an empty truck no matter what. He also asked about Wednesday special deal that somewhat fizzled out for whatever reason. Another concern he shared was about Flower Day in Eastern Market- does not want to push a culture of bargain-basement and feeling pressure by being undercut by cheaper vendors. Hardy- worried about incentivizing trying to get deals since it would go to people that need them the least that try to get them the most. Likes that it is up to the farmers discretion. Vice Chair Young said that she likes that there was more transparency for customers to do it if they see signs. Chair Woolf- wants to train people from the outside to know about this. Wants more people to get down there. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned her skepticism about the logistics of it and how it is undermining market culture. Vendor Debbie Marx said doesn't want to overthink it, and keep it in the realm of vendor choice and not putting market vendors against each other. Commissioner Nemeth asked if the market still had dry erase boards to right the sale down on it. Vice Chair Young- wants to see if the Wednesday special could be brought back to drive people. Wants to focus on customer participation. Wants to table & come back to logistical conversation about transportation

J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

Vendor Debbie Marx said it was a great meeting, although she got a little bored in the middle. She wants to see the transportation & package carrying initiative that Chair Woolf proposed. She asked about the birds nest removal timeline again and wants to get that netting put up.

L ADJOURNMENT

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City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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