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2 **Public Market Advisory Commission Minutes**
3 **March 2, 2010**

4 1. Call to Order

5
6 The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

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8 2. Roll Call

9
10 Members Present: (4) D. Barkman, D. Black, P. Pollack, G. Service.

11 Members Absent: (1) S. Brines

12 Staff Present: (1) M. Notarianni

13 Guests: (0)

14 3. Approval of Agenda

15
16 P. Pollack: The public hearing listed on today's agenda is officially scheduled for next
17 month's meeting, so it should be listed as "New Business" today. We as a Commission
18 haven't dealt with a transfer of seniority in quite awhile, and so we want to make sure it
19 is apparent to everyone.

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21 4. Special Presentations

22 5. Public Commentary – Agenda items only (3 minutes per speaker)

23 6. Approval of Minutes

24 a. Meeting of February 2, 2010

25
26 G. Service: Line 237 should read "must," not "should"

27
28 7. Commission Business

29 a. Old Business

30 b. New Business

31 (1) New Vendor Discussion

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33 M. Notarianni: I've received applications from the following vendors: handmade
34 organic skincare, a bakery hoping to bring a variety of vegan baked goods, and a vendor
35 who wants to bring chicken, turkey, eggs, herbs, and vegetables. Additionally, two
36 people who had applied and were denied previously expressed interest in attending the
37 market: one selling S. American baked goods, and one selling stained glass items.

38

39 P. Pollack: There was also an email from a vendor interested in selling composting
40 worms at market that was curious if they fit within the market's guidelines.

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42 M. Notarianni: I believe they do.

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44 D. Barkman: It seems that the season for worms may be limited at market-they may have
45 better profit margin if they contacted some growers directly.

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47 (2) Spring Public Meeting: March 8, 2010

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49 P. Pollack: Our annual spring public meeting is scheduled for 6 pm, on Monday, March
50 8, at Cobblestone Farms.

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52 M. Notarianni: The inspector will be there as well, to answer any inspection-related
53 questions.

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55 (3) Prielipp/Goetz Transfer of Seniority

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57 M. Notarianni: The transfer of seniority process is as follows: the vendor first submits a
58 transfer of seniority application to the Market Manager. Once the Market Manager
59 determines that the application is complete, the application and any supporting
60 documentation shall be transmitted to the Market Commission to review. The Market
61 Commission shall schedule and hold a public hearing. Either at the Market Commission
62 meeting on the date of the public hearing or at the next Market Commission meeting, the
63 Market Commission shall make a recommendation regarding the transfer of seniority to
64 the Community Services Administrator. After receiving the Market Commission's
65 recommendation, the Community Services Administrator or his/her designee shall
66 approve or deny the transfer of seniority application, and shall provide a written decision
67 to the applicant and the Market Commission of the decision. The applicant may appeal
68 the decision of the Community Services Administrator.

69
70 D. Black: What would be a reason for transfer?

71
72 M. Notarianni: There are 3 instances in which seniority can be transferred: upon the
73 death of an Annual Vendor, upon the retirement of an Annual Vendor, or upon the sale or
74 transfer of a vendor business.

75
76 P. Pollack: Given that we have time to look over the paperwork between now & then, we
77 should plan to vote on it at the meeting.

78
79 8. Reports and Communications

80 a. Market Manager

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82 M. Notarianni: No vendors have been inspected in the past month. The last month has
83 been very busy at market! I've been working with Peace Love & Planet, a local
84 nonprofit that recycles gardening-related plastic items. They will be at market every
85 Saturday from May 22 through the month of August, and will be collecting plastic

86 planters, 6 packs, and so on from vendors and shoppers to recycle. The City of Ann
87 Arbor will organize another compost giveaway at market. I am working with some
88 Kerrytown shop owners to coordinate events throughout the Wednesday market season to
89 highlight both the market and Kerrytown shops, as well as several seasonal evening
90 events in the market similar to KindleFest. I also attended the Local Food Summit today,
91 which was a wonderful event. One of the major concepts of the Summit was the
92 promotion of the concept of spending 10% of our food budget on items produced in
93 Washtenaw County, which I believe can only bode well for the market!

94
95 b. Related Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Task Forces

96 (1) Outreach Subcommittee

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98 M. Notarianni: We hope to schedule a meeting before our public meeting. We had a
99 scheduling mixup regarding our most recent meeting.

100
101 (2) Policy/Procedure Subcommittee

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103 P. Pollack: We will share our recent findings at the upcoming public meeting on Monday
104 evening.

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106 c. Items from Commissioners

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108 P. Pollack: Any news on the status of updated signage in the market?

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110 M. Notarianni: The new sign was designed, but Shannon felt really strongly that it
111 should say ‘Open year round on Saturdays,’ which I agree is important, so I am working
112 with designed to get those changes made.

113
114 P. Pollack: I think we should focus special energy on promoting the 4th St. side of the
115 market.

116
117 D. Barkman: Any update on reimbursing vendors for Project Fresh and EBT monies?
118 Would it be possible to have some sort of cash advance?

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120 M. Notarianni: Unfortunately, I don’t think that is going to be possible. We process the
121 EBT redemptions as quickly as possible: usually within 1-2 weeks, but it is a relatively
122 new system, and we are still trying to iron the kinks out. Project Fresh is structured
123 differently, as I have to wait until I receive a check from the state. While the cash
124 advance is a great idea, I don’t think it is going to work.

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126 d. Transmittals/communications received

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128 (1) 3/1/10, potential vendor inquiry

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

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132 S. Robertello; I am a vendor at the Farmers Market. I am really disappointed that we
133 can't come to a decision to make things a bit easier for Project Fresh. At the Garden City
134 Farmers Market-which has only 12-15 vendors, much smaller than Ann Arbor-they
135 collect our coupons at the end of every day, and on the first of each month, we receive a
136 check in the mail from them. The City of Garden City has figured out a way to work this
137 out, and I think it is really a disservice that we try to take as many forms as payment as
138 possible to make it easier for the customers, and the city isn't making it any easier for us.
139 I had to wait over 90 days-almost 120 days-to get money for some of my coupons I
140 turned in. I don't think the city would like it if I waited an extra 90 days to pay my
141 market bill. I want to make a few comments about the meeting coming up. First of all, I
142 got my notice yesterday, and the only reason I knew about the meeting was that I check
143 the website all the time. This commission set that meeting date on February 2, and I got
144 my notice on February 1. The new vendor application was not attached to the February
145 commission meeting that was posted on the website until after that meeting took place.
146 The card that came to my house made no reference to going to the website to find the
147 new vendor application. I think we need to be a little more clear and upfront with people
148 about what's going on at the market. I object to some of the more personal information
149 on here. I have been attacked personally by people going into the market and getting this
150 information off the market. Home phone numbers, email addresses, and cellphone
151 numbers should not be public information. I had one of the people I rented an orchard
152 from called by a vendor at the market passing themselves off as being from the City
153 Attorney's office and asking questions to them. I've had to file police reports about
154 personal harassment. I think we need to be very careful about personal information that
155 goes into this. The other thing I wanted to mention is that it seems there is a major
156 emphasis on ingredients that go into baked goods. You want to know specifically what is
157 going into the baked goods, but you don't ask specifically what varieties of apples or
158 peaches are grown, just the number. Why can't we list the number of ingredients in the
159 baked goods? I think we know what's going on here. Also you want to know the
160 number of employees; what they do-this is also personal information to me. Also, on the
161 new application, there is no category for acreage. How do we correlate how many acres
162 of something a vendor is growing to what they are bringing to the market? The number
163 of varieties is irrelevant, to me. Problems that have happened at the market include
164 someone who had Red Haven peaches this past season for 8 weeks, which is totally
165 impossible. It cannot happen in this world. I don't see anything is going to change by
166 this. Listing all of your supplies, ingredients: certain recipes may be family-kept secrets.
167 Everything that is recorded and put into the market file is public information. Thank you.

168
169 B. Upston: I want to echo total agreement with the things Scott has said regarding the
170 new application and inspection. I would expect that the inspection information would be
171 something that you get at the time of the inspection, but it could take you days to get all
172 of that information together. It is asking you for receipts, and information your suppliers-
173 its more like an IRS audit rather than a market inspection. I understand what you're
174 asking for might help make decisions, but at least the way its stated, its asking for an
175 awful lot. I agree that I got my notice on this meeting yesterday as well, and I knew
176 about it, but I'm sure there's lots of vendors who did not. It seems like you could do
177 better on getting the word out. Also, to let people know you have some significant

178 changes in the works, and that they should be trying to find out what's going on, instead
179 of portraying the meeting as a "welcome" meeting where nothing much is going to
180 happen.

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182 10. Adjournment

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184 The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.