

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, April 16, 2026

5:30 PM

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16,
ATT Channel 99. Online at a2gov.org/watchCTN. Public comment

can be made in person only
Second Floor Council Chambers of City Hall

Public Market Advisory Commission

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Flores called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm

B ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Lisa Young, Emma Hardy, Marcus Flores, and Karlene Goetz

Absent: 2 - Jeff Nemeth, and Will Brinkerhoff

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Goetz wanted to add to the agenda a discussion of food truck music and generator noise

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

Vendor Debbie Marx said it was nice to have an in-person meeting. She's a 35-year veteran of the market and Ann Arbor resident. She wants to push for more in-person meetings like it was before COVID. She mentioned that she thinks that aggressive soliciting in the market is becoming a bigger problem and wants to address it.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Commissioner Goetz had questions about a typo and clarification of the number of weeks for the water main construction.

G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)

I. General Updates

A. Staffing

Welcome Back Lunia!

B. Schedule & Events

May hours & Wednesday Market

Cooking Demos

Flower Day May 24

A2Zero Week Food Walking Tour June 3

C. 2026 applications

April 1 new vendors

April 15 food truck rallies

musicians & community groups

A. Staffing

Welcome Back Lunia! The only staffing update that market manager Stauffer shared is that Assistant Market Manager Ill Lunia Oriol returns from her city-mandated 2 months off this Saturday, April 18. She noted that now the market is at full staff capacity until Jade and Tyler go on their two months off in the fall.

Commissioner Young asked a follow-up question about the market annual report. Stauffer clarified it would be available soon.

B. Schedule & Events

May hours & Wednesday Market

Market Manager Stauffer shared that regular season hours of 7am-3pm begin Saturday May 2. She also said that Wednesday Market begins for the season on May 6.

Cooking Demos

Stauffer also mentioned that the Cooking Demo series starts on May 13 and takes place at 11am on the second Wednesday of the month during market. Like in years past, it is sponsored by a food safety grant by the Michigan Farmers Market Association and will continue through September. She mentioned as well that this year's demos are highlighting local chefs and market vendors, with an emphasis on foraging and food preservation techniques. Stauffer said that June and August have been booked but market staff are still lining up people to lead the demos in May, June & September.

Flower Day May 24

Market Manager Stauffer said that this year's Flower Day event, in

partnership with the Sunday Artisan Market, is Sunday May 24, 10-4pm. She also noted that Simply Spanish food truck will be attending and market staff is in the process of booking live music and organizing kids' activities. The application will be available for vendors in early May.

A2Zero Week Food Walking Tour June 3

Stauffer shared that the market will be the starting point and a host of the A2Zero Week Food Walking Tour of the Kerrytown district. It will be on Wednesday June 3, and the tour guide will be Kate from Bev's Bagels! We have invited community partners, members of the Sustainable Business Coalition, and other food businesses without a storefront close by to join us at market that day to celebrate local food and small business!

Commissioner Hardy- checked to see that June 3 was a Wednesday.

C. 2026 applications

April 1 new vendors

Market Manager Stauffer shared that the April 1 deadline for new vendors has passed and market staff received 75 applications so far for ~16 spots. She said she selected 16 new regular status vendors and 2 new mobile food vendors. Of that group, 1 regular vendor and 1 mobile food vendor will be attending on Wednesdays only. She pointed out that all new vendors have been notified but that they are still working on sending out rejections.

April 15 food truck rallies

Stauffer said that the food truck rally application deadline was yesterday, but she is holding off on final selections until the meeting with the Braun Court redevelopment team next week, to give a full picture of what the space can accommodate.

Musicians & Community Groups

Stauffer said that market staff continue to add musicians and community groups to the 2026 market calendar.

Chair Flores asked if there any community groups that market is waiting to hear back from that have participated in the past. Stauffer said no.

D. LOGOS to CivicRec Transition
Vendor invoicing process changes

E. Facility & Repairs
Project to repair market columns & bolts

F. Neighboring Construction Updates
303 Detroit Street staging
4th Ave closure
Braun Court redevelopment

D. LOGOS to CivicRec Transition
Vendor invoicing process changes
Stauffer said now that all returning vendors application are processed, and staff are finishing up application processing and vendor orientations for the second round of acceptances, staff are gearing up to create yearly payment invoices in CivicRec. As in years past, annual vendors are required to pay their yearly stall fees by June 30 and can choose to also pay their parking fees yearly. Daily status vendors are also encouraged to pay their stall and/or fees yearly by June 30, but that is not a requirement. She noted that invoicing in CivicRec will make it easier for vendors to pay online, and it will make it easier for market staff to make any corrections to invoices in real time. She clarified that vendors can still pay their invoices to market staff in person on market days using cash, check, card, and mobile pay/tap to pay. She also emphasized that vendors can no longer pay their invoices at Customer Service in City Hall.

E. Facility & Repairs
Project to repair market columns & bolts
Stauffer said that this project should begin in a few weeks, likely the first week of market, but they will not be doing work on Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday market days. They are replacing 4 columns and some bolts, so minimal disruption to market days is anticipated.

Commissioner Goetz asked if when they do that, will they repair the cement at the base of the columns?

Stauffer said she is not sure if it is included in that specific project, but that it could be completed with Park Operations, if not the contractor.

F. Neighboring Construction Updates
303 Detroit Street Staging

Market Manager Stauffer noted that the agreement between the developer and the city has been signed and that the fencing around their staging area should go up at the market soon, as well as the opaque barriers the agreement includes.

Commissioner Nemeth asked about people walking through the sidewalk area and asked if we could direct the pedestrian traffic a bit better. He wants to make sure it is easier also for vendors to get in.

Commissioner Goetz- wants to drive people down the long aisle to enter the market.

4th Ave closure & Braun Court redevelopment

Stauffer explained that she and Parks Deputy Manager Remy Long will be meeting with the Braun Court redevelopment team next Wednesday on-site to learn more details about the upcoming water main replacement and road closure of 4th Ave outside of the market. She said that they hope to gain more information about the timeline of the construction of the building then as well.

Commissioner Goetz asked if they could tighten up the timeframe of the water main construction? She said she has spoken with engineers that are working in the field and they think that 6-8 weeks is too long, although she said she knows that replacing the bricks on the street will make it take longer.

Commissioner Nemeth had another question about where the staging would be located and wanted to confirm that the sidewalks on Catherine and 4th Ave would remain open.

H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Commissioner Goetz wanted to discuss food truck music & generator sound and noise level. She said there is a wide range of volume with the food trucks and hopes that the generators will be facing away from the market vendors since it is hard to hear the customers and the vendors.

Stauffer said market would try to work with them to reduce music sounds and try to place generators further away from vendors, although our space constraints make that difficult.

Commissioner Young asks if there are food trucks that will be able

to plug into the market grid with potential renovations.

Stauffer explained that the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) has been looking into solar generators for food trucks for a few years and have not devised a feasible solution yet. She also noted that pop-ups and food carts are already doing that, and by requiring food trucks to plug into the grid, it would put restrictions on what trucks can participate, due to cost, which would also restrict access to certain food types.

RFP selection process- Market Manager Stauffer shared that the RFP selection process is underway for the community engagement process for market improvements. She said 15 proposals were submitted and that she, Parks Deputy Manager Long, and Parks Planner Adam Fercho are working on narrowing that group down to 5 proposals. She explained that after the top 5 are selected, then other City staff will help narrow the pool to the best proposals. She said there are some very strong proposals from firms with a lot of experience working with farmers markets, and there would be a possibility of PMAC participation, if necessary, in the final process- more info coming soon.

Commissioner Young said that was what she wanted to ask about.

Commissioner Goetz wants to know if market staff can put up some sandwich boards in the market to let customers know that Wednesday Market is starting soon. She also wants to know about volunteers helping the 'spruce up' around the market and if that can happen soon. She also mentioned the great job that Assistant Market Manager Moss had been doing regularly to pick up trash at the market.

Market Manager Stauffer said that that had been done somewhat when the holiday lights got taken down with help from volunteers. She also reminded all vendors to sweep and pick up after themselves at their stalls on each market day.

Commissioner Young reminded everyone that the next meeting will be her last before she is term-limited at the end of MAY. She also pointed out that PMAC needs to recruit another daily vendor representative and will also need to find her replacement. She also cited an University of Michigan study that highlighted the importance of word-of-mouth recruitment for state and local political and board positions.

Commissioner Hardy said she wanted to echo vendor Debbie Marx's public comment about aggressive soliciting. She said that it was not just people asking for money, but also people with political petitions in the market. She also said she felt she has to be more conscientious about cash boxes based on where the stall she is working at is located in the market.

Market Manager Stauffer emphasized that vendors and their staff need to contact market staff immediately if they are experiencing a disruptive person, and that can include calling the market directly from the vendor stalls. She explained the importance of this since if market staff are not informed, they are not aware and cannot address vendor concerns in a timely fashion. She also asked them to call the office immediately since we do not know that much about it unless we are notified that it is going on. She reiterated the other reason to call market staff is that they are trained in conflict de-escalation techniques and would much rather handle any potential conflict in a way that leads with empathy and compassion that does not make any potential situation more volatile. She also pointed out that she had personally told two petitioners they needed to step outside of the footprint of the market to get signatures last Saturday.

Commissioner Nemeth said that aggressive panhandling is something he has witnessed specifically in the picnic table areas behind the market, adjacent to his regular stalls.

Chair Flores reminded the body that one of the beauties of the farmers market is that it is accessible to all, and anyone is welcome to the farmers market. He also agreed with Market Manager Stauffer that it is important to make sure any instances of aggressive soliciting are approached from a conflict de-escalation framework, rooted in compassion.

Market Manager Stauffer agreed and said that she hoped that the Unarmed Crisis Response team that the City of Ann Arbor has been working on for the last few years will be ready soon. She also pointed out that a partnership with the City's harm reduction program Supportive Connections is underway. Specifically, she explained that the program will soon be creating their own version of the 'community cash' vouchers that their clients can trade in in the market office trailer for \$5 market tokens. She noted that they are

making a \$500 commitment for the first iteration of the partnership which would begin in May.

Commissioner Hardy asked about Dunbar Tower move-in and the 'welcome voucher' program, and Stauffer said at least 3 residents have come to redeem their market token. She said more are anticipated once everyone is moved into the building by the end of May.

Chair Flores asked about student outreach initiatives that the market has done in the past, targeting move-in and move-out times. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned the MSU FMPP research project we have participated in and how the lead researcher used part of their grant to purchase \$10 in market tokens for each UM students who came to redeem them. Stauffer said it was a very popular initiative and market staff are always looking for more ways to engage students.

Commissioner Goetz added that there are a lot of programs that the market can tap into with food assistance and is hoping more WIC participants will come down this year.

J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

Artisan vendor Debbie Marx said that her hearts go out to people who are struggling and is also concerned about how aggressive soliciting is negatively impacting customers. She said that Eastern Market has security, and they have a dual janitorial role at the market, but she knows that we don't want a police presence and have security at Ann Arbor Farmers Market. She wants security to be hired for the market. Marx also said that Helen Bunch has tried to apply to be the daily vendor representative but was not able to do so yet.

L ADJOURNMENT

Chair Flores adjourned the meeting at 6:24

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