

# City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, March 16, 2023

5:30 PM

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## Public Market Advisory Commission

**A CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Woolf called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

**B ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 3 - Peter Woolf, Jeff Nemeth, and Eric Farrell

**Absent:** 1 - Lisa Young

**C APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Nemeth, seconded by Commissioner Farrell, that the Agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Vice Chair Woolf declared the motion carried.

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

Vendor Karlene Goetz sent a letter to the Commission about the possibility of Annual Status Vendors receiving a 4th permanent stall and would like it to be discussed. She also mentioned that there are not that many vendors who want a 4th stall.

**E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A motion was made by Nemeth, seconded by Farrell, that the February Meeting Minutes be Approved. On a voice vote, Vice Chair Woolf declared the motion carried.

**G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)**

**I. General Updates**

- a. Returning Vendor Applications
- b. New Vendor Recruitment
- c. Staffing Updates
- d. Events
- e. Facility & Repairs

a. Market Manager Stauffer said that the returning application deadline of March 1 has passed. Now, the annual vendor and daily vendor stall & parking payment invoices will be mailed out. The payment deadline for yearly payment is June 30.

**b. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that there has been a lot of new vendor applicants and that we have already let in 10 new vendors, including 4 farms.**

**c. Market Manager Stauffer let the Commission know that the new Assistant Market Manager Hannah Bradshaw would be starting soon.**

**d. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that CSA Day is coming up on April 1. She also mentioned that we will be having a cooking demo series in partnership with Edible WOW magazine, and received a Food Safety grant from MIFMA to include food safety info in the demos. She mentioned as well that Flower Day returns on May 28 and that 4 Food Truck Rallies would be happening again this season.**

**e. Market Manager Stauffer provided an update that the spring inventory for repairs has been completed and once the weather warms up those repairs will occur.**

## **II. Rule Updates**

a. Final signatures in process for completed changes to sign-in process, transfer or seniority, & annual artisan stalls/status rules.

b. Bylaws Subcommittee Check-In

c. Producer Only Subcommittee Check-In

d. 4th Stall for Annual Producers? (see Karlene Goetz's letter)

**a. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that we are still waiting on the final signature for the 3 changes to the Public Market Operating Rules that the Commission has been working on for the last year +. All of the changes have been accepted and approved by PMAC.**

**b. Vice Chair Woolf went over his document to update the PMAC bylaws. He specifically is focusing the edits on term limits, conflict of interest, members as petitioners, and potential expansion of the bodies. Commissioner Farrell thinks that the proposed edits sound reasonable. Commissioner Nemeth thinks that it also makes sense. Vice Chair Woolf will provide a draft of revisions for the next meeting.**

**c. The Producer Only Subcommittee will have its first meeting in**

## **April**

d. Commissioner Nemeth mentioned that to start the process off, we should survey the vendors for level of interest in receiving a 4th permanent stall. He mentioned that he believes that having more space will help established vendors flourish and that it will help the market in the long-term. Vice Chair Woolf wants to see more vendors and a diversity of vendors. But he can also see why some farmers may see a benefit from an additional stall. He does worry that allowing bigger farms to take up even more space it will unintentionally give big farms an even larger advantage over smaller farms. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that allowing 4 stalls will make vendor placement logistically difficult and that she has unanswered questions about how this could work when many vendors with 3 stalls are next to other vendors with three stalls. She is also unsure that some of the vendors that want a 4th stall are currently maximizing their display space in 3 stalls. She also pointed out that we still have a lot of interest with new vendors wanting to join the market, so the assumption that the market has all this open space that could be filled by larger farmers is confusing. It is also important to note that we paused new vendor entrances for a season during COVID so vendor numbers may seem artificially lower. Additionally, if established vendors were to get these additional stalls, we would have to pause daily vendors gaining their seniority status.

## **H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that the market has been approved to start taking another form of food assistance: Prescription for Health. This local program, administered by the Washtenaw County Health Department, gives participants \$100 to spend on fresh vegetables and fruit, as well as food-bearing plants.

## **J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)**

vendor Jake Goetz echoed a lot of the point that Commissioner Nemeth and his mother Karlene made, and pointed out that getting a 4th permanent stall would help multigenerational farms that are supporting multiple households. He said it would increase their longevity and that longevity in turn would be an asset to the market. He also mentioned that it is expensive to invest in infrastructure or orchard stock, so having more space to sell products from would help offset those costs. Additionally, he mentioned that having larger stall displays would also help the

market look fuller for longer. He did acknowledge the concern about younger vendors having to wait to get their annual status.

**L      ADJOURNMENT**

**Vice Chair Woolf adjourned the meeting at 6:43pm**

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