

# City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, May 15, 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 - Peter Woolf, Lisa Young, Jeff Nemeth, and Emma Hardy

**Absent:** 1 - James Booge IV

**C APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Woolf, seconded by Hardy, 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)**

Market vendor Debbie Marx said she is glad that Remy is here to help dispel misinformation about the market. She said that parking issues are something she has heard about a lot recently. Is hopeful that the City can do something about it to ease some of the pressure.

**E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

**F PRESENTATIONS**

Remy Long, Deputy Manager of Parks & Recreation gave a presentation about the DDA Development & Tax Increment Financing Plan Update. He said that the info came from Ann Arbor City Council Work Session from 4/17/2025. It covered the DDA plan for the next 30 years- boundary, finance plan, projects & programs. He said that there are a lot of possible scenarios on the table for how they want to focus on funding projects in their footprint area. He mentioned that Farmers Market Reconstruction is one of 11 of their possible projects they will be looking to fund throughout this timeframe. He stated that it is the big picture wish list so are anchoring high on the amount of projects as well as the budgets for

each project. He noted that the potential project cost estimated at \$21 million for DDA's share alone, not including Parks or grants or anything else. He said that they clearly understand the importance of the farmers market since it is the highest funding of any projects. He also stated that this is not a predetermined outcome and the current market office re-imagining plan still stands. Chair Young said she wants to know how they came up with the figure and asked how long the plan exists for. Long said that he does not know where it came from and is 10-30 years. Commissioner Woolf said he wants to clarify how Parks & the DDA work together, and wants to know if it is a funder or if they control parts of the physical space. Long said they have capital projects that they are in charge of that happens on City land (right of way). Market Manager Stauffer brought up the two public art projects we are currently involved in- wayfinding to market & also sunshade. Long said that mlive published a misleading article. Commissioner Nemeth said he wants to know if we can contact them to see if they can publish another article to make sure people know that we are open. Vendor Debbie Marx said she also wants to assure people that the rest of the market structure is not going anywhere. Long responded that there will be an open discussion for that- late summer fall the community engagement process will be happening. He clarified that staff capacity is the reason for the delay for the engagement process and there may be a subcontractor to help with it but is coming soon.

## **G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)**

### **I. General Updates**

- a. Staffing**
- b. Vendor Applications**
- c. Marketing & Outreach**
- d. Events**
- e. Recruiting new PMAC members**
- f. Facility/Repairs/Demolition Updates**
- g. Construction Updates**

### **I. General Updates**

#### **a. Staffing**

Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that we are back to full staffing! Just in time for busy season at market.

#### **b. Vendor Applications**

Stauffer mentioned that the market received 64 total applications for 2025. The Commissioners asked questions about whether or not it is easier or harder with the new application being available online. PMAC also discussed trends of products and growing the market.

**c. Marketing & Outreach**

Market Manager Stauffer explained the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) project we are involved in with Phil Warsaw at MSU. Stauffer explained that the focus is to do outreach to certain zipcodes and income levels of people that do not shop at the market to get them to come down. She also spoke about DDA wayfinding & sunshade to get people coming through. She also mentioned that the "Lost In" tv show with DJ BBQ will be filming the Ann Arbor episode next Wednesday 5/21. She also said we have not heard back yet from 10 best.

**d. Events**

Market Manager Stauffer said that the Cooking Demos started yesterday for the season and they will be 2nd Wednesdays at 11am through September. She said that Food Truck Rallies are getting set up, just need to get the live music. She also noted that Flower Day is coming up later this month. Due to parking lot closure, she said the event is just going to focus on our vendors and the kid's art table- we do not have space for prepared food or other things. OSI Wednesdays- lost climate corps interns but have hired most of them back as staff members.

**e. Recruiting new PMAC members**

Stauffer mentioned that we now have the vacant commission spots and it is on the website. Debbie Marx said that now Raymond has bought Sparrow market Debbie said he would be a good person. Stauffer asked the commissioners to let us know if you know anyone.

**f. Facility/Repairs/Demolition Updates** Market Manager Stauffer said that hopefully the demolition and related projects will be done by the end of the month.

**g. Construction Updates**

Deputy Manager of Parks Long said there will be a May 20 planning commission for the MAVD 303 Project. Long said he will give update after the planning commission meeting happens. He noted that he was not sure of the timeline for Braun Court but it is still moving

forward. Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that 4th Ave will be closed further down the street for that project. She also mentioned that the Dunbar tower project should be move-in ready by February for affordable, supportive, and artist housing. Commissioner Hardy asked if we can have it so the 330 project will be done before the retrofitting of 303 Detroit will commence. Stauffer said unfortunately we don't think it works that way but it should. She also said that the market office building will be built at some point in the future and we don't know what the future held. Commissioner Nemeth wants everyone to be thought about in the construction process- needs to be able to get large trucks in there to be able to keep the market filled with project. He also pointed out that taking a larger truck also means less cars than if each stall was a single person. In addition, vendors need to be able to unload all the way around the market and wanted to mention that. Long said there will be a lot of place for that feedback. Commissioner Nemeth asked another question about where the sunshade placement will be. Stauffer said she will show him the plans and the area placement on Saturday.

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

Commissioner Hardy gave an update from the Producer Only Subcommittee. She said they are talking about the regulations and what they should be but that it doesn't seem to make sense without an inspector available. Market Manager Stauffer said we are in process. Long said it is on the radar and working towards a resolution.

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

vendor Debbie Marx said she wants to thank Peter Woolf for all his years of service on PMAC and hope that they can call on him in the future. She said that we are putting out the extra effort but is glad that everyone is available to help out.

vendor Christine Schopieray said she wants Boober tours to ferry people to and from their cars. Commissioner Nemeth asked about a bus running people to a parking lot and to the market, a park & ride situation. He asked how can we get more people to the building. Commissioner Woolf said a fully autonomous shuttle used to go from Pfizer to North campus & back again so wondered if something like that was possible. Chair Young wanted to know how we can get connected with the Boober Tours. Commissioner Woolf-

brought back up his vendor class of people who are concierge or transit services. Commissioner Hardy wants to start by asking Kevin from Boober since he runs his business on donations already. She said it would be good to go into larger market visioning process. Market Manager said that she will talk to him next time she sees him at the market. Stauffer asked about May Mobility and if the City is still doing it and if we can find out more about its capacity.

**L      ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 6:43pm.

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