City of Ann Arbor

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, August 20, 2026

5:30 PM

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Public Market Advisory Commission

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Flores called to order at 5:32pm

B ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Jeff Nemeth, Will Brinkerhoff, Marcus Flores, and Karlene Goetz

Absent: 1 - Emma Hardy

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Brinkerhoff, seconded by Goetz, that the Agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, Chair Flores declared the motion carried.

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

Artisan vendor Debbie Marx shared that she wants to talk about scheduling the next in person meeting.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

F I. I. General Updates

a. Events
August 5: WIC Distribution Day & WJR live broadcast
August 12: Cooking Demo #4
August 19: Food Truck Rally
August 26: A2SO Chamber Music Performance
August 27: Local Food Festival
September 2: Ann Arbor Senior Center Visit
September 9: Cooking Demo #5
September 16: Food Truck Rally

prepared food on all market days plus live music, kids activities, and community groups on most Wednesday market days

b. Staffing Updates

c. Annual Vendor Stall Move-up
Saturday, September 19 after market at 4pm. 1 artisan and 7 producers will be gaining their seniority

d. Food Assistance
$50 DUFB daily match still in effect
DUFB grant approved by Ann Arbor City Council on August 6. Once final signatures are received it will be finalized with Fair Food Network.

Prescription for Health program began in June. Program participants have purchased $1,009 to date worth of local produce from AAFM vendors.

WIC Produce Connections & Senior Project Fresh- still very low vendor participation. WIC distribution day at Wednesday market on August 5, in partnership with Washtenaw County Health Department WIC office. WCHD reported a wonderful participant show rate of 76%. Participants spent their benefits with Goetz Greenhouses & Kapnick Orchards.

e. Facility & Repairs
RFP selection for 12 month engagement- waiting on cost approval from City leadership
Portable Toilets Removal Complete- exploring options for an alternative
Waiting on multiple repairs to be completed by Park Operations

f. Neighboring Construction Updates
303 Detroit Street staging on market property
Braun Court redevelopment
4th Ave closure

I. General Updates

a. Events

August 5: WIC Distribution Day & WJR live broadcast: Market Manager Stauffer said that WIC distribution happened that day, in partnership with the Washtenaw County Health Department (see item below for more info). She noted that WJR AM radio also broadcast live from the Ann Arbor Farmers Market as part of their Michigan Agriculture series broadcasting from markets all over the state. She said that she spoke on air, as did Mango from White Lotus, Chef Ji Hye Kim from Miss Kim, and the director of Barn Sanctuary.

August 12: Cooking Demo #4: Stauffer recounted that Vendor Rayna Dye from Cooks Condiments led the Cooking Demo featuring market produce and her seasonings. She made a baked blueberry French toast/bread pudding as well as a corn salsa. 18 campers visited the market during the demo and all the kids who tasted the dishes loved them and made sure to bring recipe cards home for their parents to try. Stauffer said that Rayna had some much fun and there was at least 40 participants in the demo. Chair Flores asked about the attendance of the demos and what is a good target number. Stauffer answered that anything above 20 is good since being at 11am on a Wednesday, it can be difficult for all people to get to the market for it. She also reiterated how attendance is part of the market's required grant reporting for the MIFMA food safety grant, in addition to sharing food safety info. She explained as well that each demo lead is paid a $150 honorarium and gets $50 in tokens to spend on produce and ingredients at the market.

August 19: Food Truck Rally: Stauffer said there was wonderful turnout for the August food truck rally last night—14 food businesses in attendance (10 trucks, 1 cart, & 3 pop-ups), plus live music from Bob Hoot and Gaby, AADL button makers & kids' activities, community group VegMichigan giving away plant-based foods and doing advocacy, zero waste event support from Ecology Center Michigan. The next event will be in September when more students are back, and market staff hopes to lean into the Halloween theme for October with a potential costume contest, spooky décor, and more, with assistance of Tory from Parks Activation.

August 26: A2SO Chamber Music Performance: Stauffer said the A2SO brass quintet will be performing live at Wednesday Market, 10-11:30am. She also explained that they will be bringing another

round of free ticket vouchers for people using their SNAP/EBT benefits at the market. She also noted that market staff will give the vouchers away every market day to SNAP participants while supplies last.

August 27: Local Food Festival (LFF): Stauffer said that next Thursday, the 2026 LFF will be happening, featuring cooking demos from Kori Kanayama & Mary Balog, produce tastings featuring vendor produce, live music, games & prizes, community orgs, food & farm vendors, and food trucks. It's an event not to be missed and is a collaborative between AAFM, A2Zero, & Argus Farm Stop.

September 2: Ann Arbor Senior Center Visit: Stauffer said that a Senior Center group will be attending Wednesday market on this day, the day after she will do a local food presentation at the Senior Center, and the Friday after participants will attend a cooking class led by Eleva Potter, the environmental education specialist for Parks. Stauffer said it is the first of these collaborations but that she hopes to continue them in the future.

September 9: Cooking Demo #5: Stauffer said the next Cooking Demo is coming up September 9, featuring Kori Kanayama from Purslane Commons, who is also doing one of the live demos as the Local Food Festival.

September 16: Food Truck Rally: Stauffer said the next rally will be when students are back in town so market staff hopes for a good turnout.

Prepared food on all market days plus live music, kids activities, and community
groups on most Wednesday market days: Stauffer noted that there have been lots of things going on on market days, especially Wednesdays, this summer, with more scheduled.

b. Staffing Updates
Market Manager Stauffer shared that Jade is on their 2 months off until early October & Tyler will be going on his at the end of September through the end of November. Stauffer lamented how this had to happen during a busy part of the peak season.

c. Annual Vendor Stall Move-up
Saturday, September 19 after market at 4pm. 1 artisan and 7

producers will be
gaining their seniority
Stauffer stated that the 2026 stall move-up is coming up, and there will be 17 stalls open, which means that 8 vendors will be gaining their seniority. She also explained in detail what the seniority process entails, in comparison to the daily vendor status. She also noted that she has listed which stalls are open, but that is subject to change so not super helpful to share during this meeting. She also noted that the move up had been contentious in the past but it also had worked in the favors of the vendors participating.

d. Food Assistance
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are received it will be finalized with Fair Food Network.
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$1,009 to date worth of local produce from AAFM vendors.
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Washtenaw County Health Department WIC office. WCHD reported a wonderful
participant show rate of 76%. Participants spent their benefits with Goetz
Greenhouses & Kapnick Orchards.
Market Manager Stauffer provided more context to the above points about food assistance.

e. Facility & Repairs
RFP selection for 12 month engagement- waiting on cost approval from City
Leadership: Stauffer said they were still in a holding pattern waiting for leadership to move forward.

Portable Toilets Removal Complete- exploring options for an alternative: Stauffer reiterated that they were still exploring additional options, whether that is an additional throne on site, rentals just for Saturday market days, or something else.

Waiting on multiple repairs to be completed by Park Operations:

Stauffer said that this item has been moving forward, and that one of the oldest requests has been forwarded to the DDA for repair assistance, and that Park Ops are working to increase the pace of market repairs moving forward.

f. Neighboring Construction Updates
303 Detroit Street staging on market property
Braun Court redevelopment
4th Ave closure
Stauffer explained that the status quo is pretty much holding constant and that there are not real updates on any of those projects at the moment.

G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)

H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Market Manager Stauffer said that there were 2 instances with human feces at the market yesterday—one that market staff saw in the morning in a vendor stall and did have Park Operations respond to help with the clean-up, and the other that was found in the early afternoon over by the trash cart areas. She said that it shows that the City needs to have restrooms available to people at all hours of the day, and should not have the thrones locked 10pm-7am. She also said it underlies how the market needs more restrooms for market vendors and patrons during our hours of operation. She did say as well that the experience has inspired her to use her knowledge as a way to help other markets navigate difficult issues of managing the public space, that maybe go beyond regular emergency preparedness. She knows that there are other markets out there that do not have the City infrastructure and assistance that we do, and wants to make sure every market has the tools they need to face such unique challenges. As a result, she is putting together a research guide as part of her Michigan Farmers Market Association Racial Equity Cohort.

Market Manager Stauffer said that there were anti-abortion activists outside the market a few weeks ago and although they were a bit difficult to deal with since they were blocking one of our entrance points, they had 1st amendment protections to be there on the public sidewalk. However, she mentioned that they came back at a later time and put up stickers with their messaging on every single

post in the market, with multiple stickers on one post. She noted that although there are always a couple fliers or stickers on market posts, there has never before been this volume, and especially not this volume for stickers with a political message, which is a violation of market rules. She specified that the difficulty of removing the stickers as well has pulled paint off the posts and is a form of market vandalism. She explained as well that to move forward, she has reached out to volunteering to set-up an event where the public can help remove the parts of the stickers left behind when market staff attempted to take them down, and make paint the posts as well. Hopefully that can put a positive spin on the situation and beautify the market at the same time.

Chair Flores asked if there was a way to do more outreach to students when they are moving in to tell them about the market? Stauffer said that Tyler Moss' partner works for the campus farm & has some connections that way but we would love some suggestions on how best to connect with students. Stauffer reiterated that it's especially unfortunate that now is the time that Jade has to be on their 2 months off when they have been doing such a great job with outreach and graphic design.

Commissioner Goetz asked about power washing the market. Stauffer said that she did ask the staff person who power-washed a section of the market yesterday if they could schedule it with their supervisor.
Goetz also asked about scheduling an in person meeting for September or October. Market Manager Stauffer asked if an October 15 in person meeting would work? Commissioners responded that it works for everyone except for Nemeth, but Commissioner Hardy needs to be asked about it as well.

I REPORTS

J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

L ADJOURNMENT

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