

# City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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## Formal Minutes - Final

Thursday, May 20, 2021

5:30 PM

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Electronic Meeting

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**Public Market Advisory Commission**

~~Enter Meeting ID: 964 9013 7858~~

**A CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Holly Parker called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

**B ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 4 - Holly Parker, Lisa Young, Jeff Nemeth, and Helen Chandler

**Absent:** 1 - Peter Woolf

**C APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

Market vendor Karlene Goetz participated in public comment. She noted that she would like to see a slow and steady process to update the rules to include COVID-related changes to the sign-in process.

**E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A motion was made by Nemeth, seconded by Young, that the April Minutes be Approved. On a voice vote, Vice Chair Parker declared the motion carried.

**G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)****I. COVID sign-in process & other pandemic-related rule changes**

Market Manager Stauffer explained the changes to the sign-in process that have happened due to COVID-19 and a desire to ensure physical distancing. She noted that this is a preliminary discussion with the end goal of updating the market rules to reflect the sign-in process changes that have already been in effect for 1 year. All commission members wanted to make sure that vendors are included in the conversation and on the same page. Market Manager Stauffer agreed and noted that 18 vendors have provided her positive feedback thus far about the changes, with only one

vendor providing negative feedback. Commissioner Nemeth mentioned that he is not personally impacted by the changes as an annual vendor with assigned stalls, but Commissioner Chandler said that she had wanted this change to happen before COVID-19 had facilitated its possibility and mentioned she is much happier with the current process as a daily vendor without assigned stalls. There was also a discussion about load-in and parking bottlenecks and whether having a two-tiered arrival time system would help mitigate that or not. Manager Stauffer said she would take that into account in future conversations about the changes. Manager Stauffer also clarified to the Commission that vendors have been using this process for 1 year and have had many opportunities to already voice their opinion about it and will continue to have opportunities to do so. The next step will be for Market Manager Stauffer to share a draft of the written changes.

#### II. Commissioner Term Completion/Welcoming New Commissioners

Commissioner Chandler was thanked for her service as her term concludes and she departs the commission. Commissioner Nemeth was thanked for his service as his term concludes and he has been reappointed for a second term. It was announced that Former Market Manager Stephanie Willette will be taking Commissioner Chandler's place as a Daily Vendor representative. Her term begins in June.

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

Market Manager Stauffer announced that the Market has recently hired a new Market Assistant, who is set to begin in early June. She also mentioned that the bathroom renovation is still underway and maintenance staff are in the process of attempting to expedite that work.

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

Vendors Bruce & Jan Upston of Wasem Fruit Farm participated in this public comment. They shared their dislike of the changed sign-in process. Bruce mentioned he felt that people got moved in the new process. Jan shared that if vendors did not sign-in on time or if there was a change, they should be moved to the bottom of the vendor list for that day. Market Manager Stauffer explained that only a few vendors have been moved, and those that are higher on the

daily vendor list are most likely to be displaced when that happens. She also mentioned that those who request parking have fewer options of available stalls which constrains their market placement. She also mentioned that due to the pandemic and the process changes that everyone is getting used to, she does not feel it is appropriate to penalize vendors by sending them to the bottom of the list, especially if cancellations or additions are a result of weather, technological difficulties, and we have been notified in advance. Karlene Goetz added that we should maybe explore having annual and daily vendors arrive at different times to reduce any load-in and parking-related bottlenecks. Market Manager Stauffer said she would add that to the broader conversation about the changes moving forward. She emphasized that we are a market community and we need to work together as a community for a process that benefits all.

#### **L ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Parker adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.

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