

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, October 20, 2022

5:30 PM

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Electronic Meeting

Public Market Advisory Commission

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

B ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Peter Woolf, Lisa Young, Jeff Nemeth, Stephanie Willette, and Eric Farrell

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

No public commentary provided

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Woolf, seconded by Willette, that the September Minutes be Approved. On a voice vote, Chair Young declared the motion carried.

G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)**I. Rule Updates & Changes**

The discussion of rule changes and updates continued, with a focus on the Producer Only status of market vendors. Chair Young mentioned that she wants to hear inputs from the inspectors on the process and a discussion followed about what changes would happen to the current inspection process and what enforcement could look like as a result of proposed changes. Commissioner Willette mentioned that a goal she had for the process was to increase the morale of growers who think that other growers are slipping through the cracks of the current rules, creating the perception that the rules are not being followed by all. The Commission also discussed what the ideal producer mix would look like in the future, especially given the situation where many of our elder producers are approaching retirement age without succession plans in place for their operations.

The commission discussed specific aspects of production that currently fall in a grey area, like nursery plants and feeder animals, as well as the suggestion from back in 2019 that requiring ownership of equipment may help ensure producer only status. Market manager Stauffer pointed out that that type of requirement of ownership of farm and food production equipment would unintentionally exclude farmers and producers with less resources and also did not take into account how farms borrow equipment from other farms often. She also mentioned that the goals of the producer only rules need to come from a positive place of trust and not from a punitive place that assumes vendors are trying to break the rules. She wants to go back through the 2019 suggestions and remove items that come from this punitive standpoint or are needlessly exclusionary. Commissioner Nemeth asked a question about whether CSAs who distribute at market are still held to the producer only guidelines and if something needs to be put in the rules governing aggregated CSAs. Commissioner Woolf wondered about how customer perception fits into the equation, and how that fits with the perception of vendors as well as staff. He wants goals to be written down for the producer only rules, stemming from a pride-based production standpoint. This led to a discussion of how complaints should be documented and how resolution of those complaints should come about. The next step is for Market Manager Stauffer to draft a document that removes any exclusionary or too specific language.

Commissioner Young called for a vote to create a subcommittee to discuss, review, and advise any changes to the producer only rules. Commissioner Willette called for that motion, seconded by Commissioner Woolf. All Commissioners voted for the creation of the subcommittee. Commissioners Willette and Nemeth will now recruit other vendors to the subcommittee.

In terms of transfer of seniority, Market Manager Stauffer recommended that any portion of those rules that called for a 30 day turnover will become 60 days and any portion that called for a 60 day turnover will become 90 days. All Commissioners agreed. In all cases, if additional special consideration is needed, the vendors can contact the Market Manager.

The Artisan rule change discussion continued, ironing out that 18 spots are currently needed for all annual status artisans that want to have 2 stalls to be able to have them. The discussion centered on

whether the number limit should be removed altogether or whether the lists between producers and artisans should become blended so that everyone gains seniority in their current order. The 13th artisan to gain seniority got it this year, so if the numbers did not change, it would revert back down to 12 artisans allowed to have annual status at any given time. Commissioners agreed to make the 13 permanent and allow 18 stalls for annual status artisans. The discussion of list merging was tabled for later discussion. Market Manager Stauffer will finalize language and present for an official vote at the next meeting.

II. Facility & Staffing Updates

Market Manager Stauffer provided quick updates about facility upkeep as the weather turns colder as well as staffing. Volunteers have been helping out on Saturdays since Alex is off for his two months. He will return in early November.

III. Events

Market Manager Stauffer discussed recent events, including the Final Food Truck Rally of the year, the Office of Sustainability's Local Food Festival, and the upcoming Trick or Treat event at the Wednesday Market with GIVE365. Although the two bigger events had unseasonably cold weather, they went pretty well. The Food Truck Rally was a great event as always. The Local Food Festival was a good first attempt at a new event.

IV. Construction Updates

Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that the Catherine Street and 4th Ave construction should end soon. It has had a negative impact on customer attendance to the market and made it difficult for vendors to get to and from different sides of the market and between parking lots. She also mentioned that, according to developer MAVD, the 330 Detroit Street construction should begin at some point in November.

H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Chair Young mentioned that during the Local Food Festival, she had spoken to OSI director Missy Stults about how OSI could get involved in the Market Winterization Project. Since OSI is a different department than the Parks and Recreation department that the

market is a part of, and funding streams are separate, it is unclear whether or not this conversation will bear fruit.

J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

No public commentary provided

L ADJOURNMENT

Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 7:01pm

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