

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Formal Minutes - Final

Thursday, March 17, 2022

5:30 PM

This electronic meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at a2gov.org/watchCTN

Electronic Meeting

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Public Market Advisory Commission

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Woolf called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

B ROLL CALL

All Commissioners Present

Present: 5 - Peter Woolf, Holly Parker, Lisa Young, Jeff Nemeth, and Stephanie Willette

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Willette, that the Agenda be Approved with changes. On a voice vote, Chair Woolfe declared the motion carried. Commissioners added a discussion of the PMAC bylaws.

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

During public comment, Karlene Goetz, producer vendor with Goetz Greenhouses, inquired about COVID funding that the City will be receiving and whether or not the market would be getting any of those funds directly.

Chair Woolf read a letter shared with him by artisan vendor Debbie Marx. The letter touched on many subjects, including many that had already been addressed by the time that the letter was read. Other content of the letter addressed elements that market staff had not been previously aware of.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Nemeth, seconded by Woolf, that the Minutes from the February and November Meetings be Approved. On a voice vote, Chair Woolf declared the motion carried.

G REGULAR BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEMS)**I. Election of Officers Results**

Market Manager Stauffer announced the election results from the February meeting. The commission elected Lisa Young as the new

Chair and Stephanie Willette as the new Vice Chair.

II. General Market Updates

Market Manager Stauffer presented General Market Updates.

a. Facility

Market Manager Stauffer provided the following updates about the market facility.

Park Operations has recently fabricated and installed new back doors on the market office building. The old doors had bad wood rot and needed to be replaced.

The IT department say that the market wireless signal should be fixed and much stronger than it had been previously.

The one-way tape has been removed by Park Operations and a preliminary power-washing completed.

A new development is coming to the property just across Detroit street from the market. Although we are not sure yet when the new construction will begin, during the course of the construction, the angling parking spots will be temporarily replaced by parallel spots. This will impact vendor load-in and load-out and will temporarily result in the loss of 8 parking spots on Detroit street. Market staff will share more details once they are available.

b. COVID-19 protocol

Market Manager Stauffer mentioned that as of March 14, the City has gotten rid of their indoor mask requirement, with some exceptions. One of those exceptions is that staff must still wear masks in the market office since they do not have a barrier when interacting with the public at the market office window. Accordingly, masks are still required for everyone who enters the market office. Masks are now recommended in the market breezeway and restroom areas. Since the mask requirement has been removed in indoor spaces, the bathrooms will now be open to the public. The City continues to closely monitor the COVID case rate and changes may occur again as new information is received.

The walk-up token window will continue for the foreseeable future.

III. Sign-In Process Rule Change Continued

a. Vendor Survey Report

Assistant Manager Alex Bissell presented the vendor survey results about changes to the sign-in process.

Market Manager Stauffer showed the data table that Alex had prepared for the presentation. The data showed that the vast majority thought that the sign-in process change impacted their business favorably, with only a few stating that it had negatively impacted their businesses. Specifically, In response to the question "In your experience, How accessible is the electronic sign-in process?" Of the 75 respondents: 51 vendors chose 'accessible', 9 chose 'somewhat accessible', 5 chose 'neutral', 2 chose 'somewhat not accessible', 8 chose 'not accessible'. In summary, 87% of responses chose accessible, somewhat accessible, or neutral. 13% of responses chose somewhat not accessible or not accessible.

In response to the question "How have the changes to the sign-in process impacted your business?", Of the 76 respondents, 26 chose 'positively impacted', 8 chose 'somewhat positively impacted', 23 chose 'neutral/no impact', 5 chose 'somewhat negatively impacted', 4 chose 'negatively impacted', and 10 chose 'don't know/not impacted.' In summary, 88% of responses chose positively impacted, somewhat positively impacted, neutral/no impact, or don't know/not impacted. ~12% of responses chose somewhat negatively impacted or negatively impacted.

The survey data about parking questions was not as conclusive in terms of who needed parking for what purposes, parking a car, holding product, or both, but we did get a good idea of how many total spots we would need to accommodate the needs of the current vendors who answered the survey: 101. Market staff will present another draft of rule changes reflecting these survey results at the next meeting.

Commissioner Nemeth shared some feedback vendors had shared with him, including the possibility of online spot selection, that a handful of people had told him they liked picking their spot, but that most people like the new process.

The commission also discussed the need to change all aspects of the Public Market Operating Rules that need updating so that they can all be submitted to City Council for review at once. Specific items to be changed, in addition to the sign-in process, include

removing the notarization requirement for returning vendors, updating language to be more inclusive, and other items that will be identified by market staff in their thorough review of the document.

H NEW BUSINESS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Commissioners discussed their desire to review and potentially edit the PMAC bylaws to make them more relevant to current operations. For next meeting, they will have looked over the current bylaws and will come ready to discuss potential changes.

J SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (NOT LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS)

Karlene Goetz shared again during the public comment period. She mentioned that when the construction starts, the market needs to ensure that the sidewalks are kept clear on the Detroit street side of the market. She also mentioned that many vendors did need their parking spots to hold product and that it is difficult if the amount of parking spots people had access to decreased. She also asked that the PMAC meeting agenda and minutes be sent out via email to vendors. All agendas and minutes, including access information, are available on the City legislator website for PMAC and all other City Commissions.

L ADJOURNMENT

Chair Woolf adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm

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