

June 27, 2019

Constituency Executive Committee draft minutes

6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Jerry Baroh, Nick Setten, Mark Brady, David Ghoddousi, Joan Paulson, Ali Mowry, Betty Halfon, Russell Monroe, Sherry Bird, Skip (PDA)

Meeting called to order by Chair Jerry Baroh.

Elections:

Nick said next month's general assembly meeting will include the first round of elections. Candidate questions and packets are in. Additional interested candidates need to submit the materials. There will be a candidates forum at the crafts line the weekend preceding the general assembly meeting, starting at 8:30 a.m. The election will begin Tuesday July 16 at 6 p.m. There was a discussion about the timing of the forum and it was decided to move it to Friday the 12th instead.

Nick discussed outreach for the elections and acknowledged Ali's help.

Nick said the PDA Council's committee appointment schedule is slightly different and asked if it would make sense to bring the schedules in line. Discussion ensued.

The Executive Committee reviewed election procedures and logistics. There was discussion about the problem of members showing up to vote that were not current in their membership. Nick asked for volunteers to go through the membership cards and a date was set.

Jerry asked for an update on the Constituency elections sign. Ali explained that the banner sign would arrive in early July.

Nick introduced their guest, Sherry Bird, who lives in the Sanitary Market.

There was a discussion about volunteers that could run or help with the elections.

Showbox:

Nick reported that the King County Superior Court struck down spot-zoning and ruled that the City was operating outside its jurisdiction. Historic Seattle wants to buy the building. Nick said that the effort helps to tighten the sense of community downtown, including Save the Market Entrance, the Market Foundation, RiseUp Belltown, Friends of Historic Belltown, Historic Seattle, Vanishing Seattle, Friends of the Market. There was discussion about the study of expanding the historic district. Nick got the information from the architectural historians conducting the study. The study was completed just before the County court struck down the spot zoning. Nick continued that there were small interviews, then there would be additional interviews. Joan added that people should be notified that the interviews are coming, that they

should be prepared, and that they work.

Mark said he talked to Mary about the Constituency's role and whether or not the Exec Comm members are insured for liability, and obtaining it in writing. Mary will get back to him.

Merchants Association:

Betty updated the Constituency about the Market News. She suggested getting more information from Megan.

Champion Building: Jerry asked for an update on the Champion Building. There were concerns about the vacancies in the building. Discussion ensued about what Constituency and PDA Council representatives could do to help and the limitations.

Orca cards:

Ali talked to a representative from Commute Seattle about their Orca Card program. Either the Constituency and the PDA can act as the broker for the program. Cash flow is the biggest stumbling block. Downtown is zoned for the highest rate because there is so much transportation. If the Constituency wants to supply 250 Orca cards for employees in the Market, it would cost \$174,000 the first year. It could be broken up into four payments. It would require getting a grant. She hasn't discussed it with the Foundation yet. The second year, it would go up to \$200,000. This is a benefit to the Market employees by the Constituency acting as a broker for the program. It would cost people \$40 less/month for their Orca card than they currently pay full price. It would not be open to people that qualify for the Orca Lift program through the city. Buying the package through Commute Seattle, it would cost \$56/month instead of \$99/month. Second year: \$66/month. Ali would like to next meet with Lillian and Mary to find out what the Foundation's role in the program would be. She said the PDA can't finance the program but it could administer it. Ali said it invests in people who come to the Market every day. It will be more convenient for people to spend money in the Market.

Nick asked why there is a price difference between the first and second year. Ali explained that the first year is cheaper because there are incentives for businesses to join. Ali brought up a state subsidy program. Joan spoke in support of the state subsidy program. Ali said that it would make the first year cheaper, but maybe it could be spread out over several years.

There was a discussion about Orca subsidies for public housing vs. this proposed subsidy.

Mark expressed a concern about leftover Orca cards, if not all 250 were used. Ali said there would be a needs assessment. David said the needs assessment would be important. He noted that there had been a waiting list for the earlier Orca card program. Mark said there was no income cap for the program. Discussion ensued about eligibility and rules/regulations that would have to be drafted. David asked if the Commons could be utilized for distribution. Ali said the employees at the Commons are already being asked to do too much. She thought that Constituency members should do the staffing for the program. David talked about the free Orca

card program for Seattle Public School students. He suggested that they talk to the Mayor's office for support. Ali said she's contacted the Mayor multiple times and the Mayor never responded. She has worked with Commute Seattle for a year and explained that it is part of the DSA. She suggested continuing to work with Commute Seattle. There was discussion about having a second person added to help Ali in her meetings with Commute Seattle.

Next steps: Ali will contact Mary and copy Jerry.

Public vs. private Market:

Joan explained the map of the Market, which went from 7 to 13 buildings. She wants people to understand more about the history and the significance. She said the concept of a district came up in 1926. She provided additional history. She says that the pendulum was swinging from private to public and continues to do so. She talked about the history of Seattle's first grocery store, A & P Grocery Store (later Tradewell), which started at the Market. Nick said there's an opportunity in the upcoming celebration of the Market's 50th anniversary.

Nick asked if the Constituency should discuss participating in the 50th anniversary. Discussion about the history of the Market ensued.

Minutes:

Betty asked if the minutes were being transcribed. Jerry said that Laurie Johnson will be writing them up.

Budget: No updates. Jerry reviewed that they are asking for \$10,000, identifying categories for the expenses; he will be presenting to Mary and John.

Skip was introduced. There was a discussion about flags and protocol. Mark said there was no flag out for Memorial Day. There was consensus that there should be wider discussion about it, perhaps at the Market Programs Committee.

There was a discussion about ways in which the Constituency is moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.