



The City of Seattle

Pike Place Market Historical Commission

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
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MINUTES

MHC 29/23

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Hybrid meeting virtual location: Virtual access on the WebEx platform as provided in the meeting agenda.

Hybrid meeting physical location: Seattle City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Boards & Commissions Room L2-80

COMMISSIONERS

Leslie Buker (arrived after the meeting was called to order)

Sam Farrazaino

Grace Leong, Chair

Golnaz Mohammadi, Vice Chair

Lisa Martin

Lauren Rudeck

Stephanie Young

Staff

Minh Chau Le

Melinda Bloom

Absent

Chair Grace Leong determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

She provided an acknowledgement of the Pike Place Market being on unceded land of the Duwamish and Puget Sound Coast Salish people.

022223.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 22, 2022

July 6, 2022

July 13, 2022

July 27, 2022

Several Commissioners said they hadn't read the minutes and suggested tabling approval of June 22, 2022 and July 6, 2022 minutes until next meeting. July 13, 2022 and July 27, 2022 minutes had not yet been prepared.

022223.2 REPORT OF THE CHAIR

There was no report.

022223.3 REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

Administered by the Historic Preservation Program Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

"Printed on Recycled Paper"

Public Comment:

Ms. Le said there was one public comment which the commenter requested be read at the meeting.

“Hello, Commissioners.

As you consider looking again at the MHC Guidelines, I hope you will address the statement of commitment to racial equity that City Council required be added to the Guidelines in 2015 when City Council approved changes to Chapter 25.24.030 of the Municipal Code.

For your reference, I have added to this email a strikethrough Word document of the proposed Guideline changes—including the racial equity statement—that were previously approved by the Commission and sent to both the DON and to the City Attorney, but which were never finalized.

Good luck (and thank you!) as you embark on this important task.

—Christine Vaughan”

Ms. Leong said she, Ms. Rudeck, and Ms. Mohammadi had met to begin discussing guideline revision. She said the Commission received a draft of revisions previously drafted by the Commission. She noted the addition of a racial equity statement and section 1.8, Compliance and Enforcement. Commissioners said non-compliance had been a recurring topic and warranted attention.

Ms. Martin asked who would be consulted and suggested the PDA’s input be sought as they own and manage most of the Market buildings.

Ms. Buker arrived at 4:47 p.m.

Mr. Farrazaino asked about the Commission’s legal authority to monitor and participate in compliance.

Ms. Leong said the guidelines say the Commission is charged with monitoring compliance with Certificate of Approval. She said there is non-compliance and questioned how to handle that in a way that is beneficial to all. She said it would be a process with discussion, review, outreach, feedback, revisions, and legal review.

Ms. Le cited SMC 25.24.090 and SMC 25.24.100 which describe enforcement and said that SDCI has the sole legal authority to issue formal violation and penalty. She said other models of enforcement could take place but final formal actions take place by SDCI. She asked the Guideline Review Committee keep her apprised of future GRC for public noticing and to ensure any legal issues receive timely attention. She suggested that the newly-hired consultants could assist with the Commission’s goal of having an inclusive way to gather input on Guideline revisions.

Ms. Leong suggested review of 3.2, 3.2.10, 3.4.2 and noted walls and interior paint color has come up in several applications recently. She suggested review of off premise signage and sign boards, and Market zones maps. She said the existing Market zones doesn't consider the new Marketfront or that Western has changed.

Ms. Young said Highstalls had also been a frequent topic of discussion recently.

Mr. Farrazaino suggested looking at how to streamline the application review process. He was supportive of exploring how the facilitators could help with gathering input from the PDA, Friends of the Market, and other constituencies.

Ms. Le said Committee meeting should be noticed so people can attend and be aware a revision is happening.

Ms. Leong said she would create a schedule so Ms. Le could provide public notice.

Ms. Leong said the Committee met on the previous Wednesday.

Ms. Le asked for confirmation that at that meeting the Committee discussed compliance, business interiors, Market zones, and the racial equity statement. The Committee members concurred.

Mr. Farrazaino asked if the previously drafted guideline regarding sounds was incorporated into the guidelines.

Ms. Leong said she focused on section 3 when reviewing. She said the Commission could review prior draft guidelines again. She said review should start where the existing 2013 are at and take into consideration drafts made by prior members.

Mr. Farrazaino said a lot of sound studies were done to inform that revision.

Ms. Young asked if it was ever formally adopted.

Ms. Le said no. The guideline document used is the November 2013 version. She noted in the draft dated 2019, 2.14 Market Soundscapes was proposed but not ratified.

Ms. Leong said she is not prepared to include sound and would need to further review the prior proposals. She suggested keeping the revision process at hand manageable with four noted items plus the racial equity statement.

022223.4

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Le said there is a pause on moving Commission meetings to the Market and there is no known estimated return date.

Ms. Le said new incoming Commissioners are on track and she hoped they would be confirmed and ready to go by April. She said there are four new Commissioners and three re-appointments.

Ms. Le said DON had recently hired a consultant. She said in 2022 the Commission discussed a range of topics such as convening community conversations, gathering input, revising guidelines and rules. She said the consultant could be a resource in these areas.

The Commission's revised Rules and Procedures were filed with Clerk's Office and are now the Commission's adopted Rules as of February 15, 2023. She said the Rules and Procedure revision is similar to the upcoming guideline revision in terms of public process, multiple draft reviews by Commission, legal review, and final vote.

Ms. Leong asked how much time the facilitator consultant process would take from Commissioners.

Ms. Le said she didn't have an estimate, but they had an interest in talking with each Commissioner and this would be done outside of the public meetings.

022223.5 NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rudeck asked why moving meetings back to the Pike Place Market was delayed.

Ms. Le said is it a DON management decision. She said the Pike Place Market meeting room previously used by the Commission now has hybrid capability.

Commissioners said holding meetings at the Market was important for equity and accessibility for applicants and the public.

Mr. Farrazaino said a discussion needs to be had with DON management.

Ms. Le encouraged members to make a statement if they want to.

Ms. Martin noted there may be security concerns.

Other Commissioners said there is security staff and it is among the safer places in Seattle.

Ms. Young requested that hybrid capability be retained after the meetings return to the Market location.

Mr. Farrazaino said he would write the letter for Commission to consider sending to Department of Neighborhoods.

Motion to adjourn:

MM/SC/LR/SF, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 5:25 pm

Submitted by:
Minh Chau Le, Commission Coordinator