



The City of Seattle

Pike Place Market Historical Commission

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

MHC 127/23

Wednesday, August 17, 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: PDA Classroom Meeting Room: 93 Pike Street# 317

COMMISSIONERS

Leslie Buker

Mark C. Childs

Jonathan Cracolici

Grace Leong, Chair

Lisa Martin

Golnaz Mohammadi, Vice Chair

Staff

Minh Chau Le

Sarah Sodt

Absent

Sam Farrazaino

Elisa Shostak

Stephanie Young

Lance Wagner

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

081723.1 COMMISSION WORKSHOP

Facilitators Uroosa Fatima and Colin Christopher of EnviroIssues presented the draft equity statement created by the commission that is to be incorporated into its guidelines.

Note: The statement presented by EnviroIssues as the draft equity statement is the text from SMC 25.24.030 (Commission created) section B, not the Commission's draft.

Commissioners provided individual reflections on how they define equity and what they have seen to be barriers to accessing information and opportunities. They referenced that the Commission has a draft racial equity statement which is in evaluation by the Guidelines Review Committee. They discussed the importance of hearing the

perspectives of Market applicants and others who are involved in the Market. They discussed the need to balance equity goals with basic standards such as the guidelines.

Commissioners expressed interest in gaining a clearer understanding of the processes that take place, such as the appointment process, the roles and structures of other Market-based organizations, and the enforcement process for violations. The Commission discussed enforcement as an opportunity for engagement and education.

The facilitators shared examples of other city boards where membership rules allow for broader and less restrictive eligibility, but cited those rules are part of legislation and harder to change.

The facilitators said applicants are navigating a process that is complex and potentially new to them, making an equity-based approach important.

The commission discussed whether there could be a simplified version of the guidelines to make the process easier to navigate. The commission noted that the relationship between property owner and tenant also represents a power imbalance. The commission expressed interest in supporting the business incubation function of the Market.

The facilitators presented their perspective on the role of public comment during meetings as an area where inequity can be can take place.

The commission discussed the placement of public comment in a meeting sequence and the practice of back and forth dialogue with public commenters. The commission noted on rare occasions these exchanges could become highly contentious. The commission expressed its interest in hearing a balance of perspectives.

The facilitators discussed the onboarding process for new commissioners and provided suggestions to regularly update materials, implement a check in process, mentoring by prior commissioners, and supporting commissions with additional equity resources or training.

Adjourn 6:15 pm by acclamation.

Minh Chau Le
Commission Coordinator
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