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3 **CITY OF ANN ARBOR**
4 **PUBLIC MARKET ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES-DRAFT**
5 **October 30, 2008**

6
7 Thursday October 30, 2008
8 6:00pm Council Chambers
9 City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue

10
11 **Meeting Agenda**

12
13 1. Call to Order

14 The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.

15 2. Roll Call

16 Members Present: (4) S. Brines, D. Black, G. Service, P. Pollack

17 Members Absent: (1) K. King

18 Staff Present: (1) M. Notarianni

19 3. Approval of Agenda

20 4. Special Presentations

21 (1) P. Pollack

22 This presentation focused on images of the Ann Arbor Farmers Market over its lifetime.

23
24 The market's structure is dynamic and has undergone many changes, including the
25 bricking of Detroit and Fourth, the inclusion of trees in the triangular area of the market,
26 and the creation of seating areas for marketgoers (some of which has since been
27 removed).

28
29 Images of other markets, in Toronto and Seattle, were also shown. Some useful ideas to
30 be gained from these markets include colorful signage promoting the markets and
31 heralding special events and season changes, popup tents that were used to promote the
32 market and provide information for shoppers, and many special and educational events
33 throughout the year.

34
35 5. Public Commentary – Agenda items only (3 minutes per speaker)

36 6. Approval of Minutes

37 a. Meeting of September 18, 2008

38 7. Commission Business

39 a. Old Business

40 (1) Seniority~review past discussions and action to continue current status for 1 year

41 Decision to postpone further discussion of Seniority until November meeting.

42 P. Pollack: The current system is not that bad. Our goal is evaluating and updating a
43 seniority-based system; perhaps activity level of the market is something else. Should
44 we keep what we have for a year, and make sure to keep thorough records?

45 M. Notarianni: Let's leave this issue to discuss until next month, when we have more
46 members and are televised.

47 P. Pollack: How about if we put a resolution on paper, which we can vote on next
48 month?

49 M. Notarianni: Sure! I'll write it.

50 P. Pollack: Make sure it is in the official resolution "format."

51 b. New Business

52

53 (1) Public Market Operating Rules update timeline

54

55 M. Notarianni: I think we should create a timeline to discuss this, so that the updates will
56 have time to be approved by City Council before July of 2009.

57

58 P. Pollack: I think it is especially important to clarify the terms of "leased" land in future
59 updates. The relationship between the grower and the role they play in the lease
60 arrangement should be clarified.

61

62 Decision to continue discussion at November meeting.

63

64 (2) Sale of potentially invasive plants at the Market

65

66 P. Pollack: It was brought to our attention by a shopper that certain invasive plants are
67 being sold at the market. How do we want to address this? The city has a list of invasive
68 plants that prohibited from all new development; maybe we could use that as a
69 guideline?

70

71 M. Notarianni: This should be clarified in the rules. Let's reference back to the City's
72 ordinance regarding invasive species.

73

74 P. Pollack: Maybe inspecting for invasive species could be included in the inspector's
75 job?

76

77 (3) Continuing to televise PMAC meetings during City Hall renovations

78

79 M. Notarianni: The PMAC meetings will be moved during City Hall's construction. In a
80 broad sense, the City is planning to move towards decreasing the number of public

81 commission meetings that are televised; only broadcasting larger commission meetings.
82 This means that, starting in January, PMAC will no longer be televised. I hope to
83 research this decision in greater detail, and express the importance of continuing to
84 televise these meetings.

85

86 P. Pollack: This is upsetting, because the market belongs to every single citizen of the
87 City of Ann Arbor. Could you find the criteria for this decision? If our meetings won't
88 continue to be televised, we should find a very public place to meet, and possibly even
89 videotape ourselves.

90

91 8. Reports and Communications

92 a. Market Manager

93

94 M. Notarianni: Several vendors have been inspected in the past month. Additionally,
95 Mr. Heim's appeal was responded to by Jayne Miller. The Market's solar project was
96 shared with residents of Southeast Michigan, as the project was a site on the Great Lakes
97 Renewable Energy Association's annual Solar Tour. As a result of a letter and
98 informational packet distributed in the past month, many area chefs have expressed
99 interest in purchasing food directly from market vendors. We have also begun to
100 highlight local restaurants that support local growers on the market's website. The
101 market was promoted at Rackham's Health and Fitness Fair, and was featured in CTN's
102 "Conversations" program. Our second Rapid Market Assessment will be conducted in
103 conjunction with UM student volunteers on Saturday, November 8th. Eligible market
104 vendors are continuing to accept Project Fresh coupons throughout the month. We are in
105 the final steps of organizing to accept EBT cards (food stamps), and are in the process of
106 creating exciting new infrastructure at the market that will facilitate this process. I am
107 beginning to work with CAN (the Community Action Network) as well. Some possible
108 projects include offering CAN clients classes on cooking and nutrition, facilitating
109 resident trips to the market, and more!!

110

111 Finally, I was incredibly fortunate enough to have the opportunity to represent the Ann
112 Arbor Farmers Market at Terra Madre, Slow Food's biennial conference in Turin in the
113 past week. Look forward to a presentation about my super majestic experiences at Terra
114 Madre next month!

115

116 P. Pollack: Could you create a link to the Conversations interview on the website?

117

118 M. Notarianni: Sure!

119

120 b. Related Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Task Forces

121

122 P. Pollack: We met earlier today with the Greenbelt Commission, to discuss interest in
123 collaboration between the two groups. We began to discuss what our groups' respective
124 priorities might be, and some members of the Greenbelt suggested changing the priorities
125 they use to rank properties so that preservation of smaller farms is encouraged. Because I
126 and another member of the Greenbelt also sit on the NATAC board, in essence 3 groups

127 were represented at this meeting. Some tangible projects we discussed included area
128 farm tours, creating listings of area farms, and highlighting direct connections between
129 farmers and consumers.

130

131 S. Brines: How about working with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, or
132 Washtenaw Landtrust?

133

134 P. Pollack: At this point in time, it is important for us to define the players, and also
135 create some tangible accomplishments we hope to achieve.

136

137 c. Items from Commissioners

138

139 S. Brines: The organizers of the HomeGrown Festival are in the process of creating a
140 *local foods summit*, to occur in January or February. This would be another good place to
141 discuss an incubator farm.

142

143 G. Service: Have you thought about involving kids from area schools? Could schools
144 take on the project?

145

146 S. Brines: Well, there is the Agrarian Adventure garden at Tappan.

147

148 D. Black: How about the soup kitchen?

149

150 P. Pollack: It would be nice to find land that isn't slated for athletic use, so they wouldn't
151 be competing for space.

152

153 I envision the Local Foods Summit could be part of a month-long series of events, with
154 the market being the physical touch point for all of this. Perhaps we should create an
155 events subcommittee?? Let's work, for the next meeting, to put all of our contacts and
156 programs we'd like to achieve in one place.

157

158 d. Transmittals/communications received

159

160 (1) B. Yelsik, 10/14/08, sale of invasive species at market

161

162 9. Public Commentary – General (3 minutes per speaker)

163

163 10. Adjournment

164

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.