

Oak Park Farmers' Market Commissioners Meeting

March 10, 2009 Minutes

Present: Commissioners Barbara Dolan, Betsy Fechalos, Chris Mitchell, Frank Pond, Maggie Den Hartog, Ann Bill; Market Manager Meredith Conn; Assistant Market Manager Kathy Lewis; Staff Liaison Mike Charley; Vendor Liaison Jim Vitalo; Guest, Sandy Lentz

Absent: Chairperson Melissa Wittenberg; Commissioner Nancy Fjortoft

F. Pond called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

The February 11 minutes were corrected to note Barbara Pendleton was absent. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Budget Report—Mike Charley

The Oak Park Village budget has not been finalized. YTD Market spending is well within last year's budget.

M. Conn, K. Lewis, M. Wittenberg and M. Charley completely reviewed and revised the Rules of Operation. The revised rules will go before the board on 3/16/09. It was noted that the no smoking regulation should be its own category within the Rules of Operation.

The sale of prepared food and meals at the Winter Farmers' Market is a health department concern. Once again, the commission stressed the importance of the public being aware that the winter market is not affiliated with the Oak Park Farmers' Market.

Committees & Special Events

The Market is holding its first environmental day on May 30, 2009. The event has been named Go Green. Chaney Mansion will do cooking and composting demonstrations for children. Mr. Breathe Easy will talk to kids about clean air. The bicycle safely people have been asked to participate. A green products juggler might be participating.

Sandy Lentz, a master gardener presented a proposal for master gardeners to staff a help desk at the Market's environmental day. Sandy would recruit local master gardeners to staff the desk. M. Conn is her contact. The commission suggested the help desk have a banner so people would know who they are and to distinguish the help desk from the commissioner's booth. Depending on the number of volunteers willing to work the Market, it might be possible to have the help desk more than once this session.

People will be able to order water barrels and compost bins. Jim Vitalo will do a demonstration on how to "green" your household cleaning. An invitation has been extended to Seven Generations.

The market will once again participate in A Day in Our Village, June 7, 2009.

Manager's Report—Meredith Conn

M. Conn and K. Lewis are soliciting vendors for bread. All applications, regular, bread and food demo, are posted on the Market's web site. M. Conn will call the appropriate city departments regarding the early opening.

Growers Report—Jim Vitalo

The growers are very happy with the decision to allow bread at the Market.

Merchandising—Maggie Den Hartog

M. Den Hartog will place an order before stepping down in May. We have significant inventory left over from last year. C. Mitchell will take over as Merchandising Chair.

Friends—Barb Dolan

There will be a Friends of the Oak Park Farmers' Market recruiting event on May 19, 2009 at the main Oak Park Library on Lake Street. B. Dolan is coordinating.

PR Committee—Betsey Fechalos

The commission agreed with B. Fechalos' recommendation to pay \$2425.00 for advertising on the green and blue lines and to purchase three Wednesday Journal ads for \$975.00.

Chairperson's Report—Frank Pond for Melissa Wittenberg

Melissa will notify the 100 block of Elmwood about the early opening.

Old Business

None.

Next Meeting: April 15, 2009. 7:00 pm at Oak Park Village Hall.

The Farmers' Market Commission Meeting adjourned at 8:22p.m.