



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B
EMCAC Report
for
MAY 2019

Part 1: Regular Meeting of the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee. The principal discussion concerned final plans for a major Eastern Market event: *Rediscover Eastern Market*. A long weekend event, June 7,8 and 9 (save the dates!) is being planned to commemorate the re-opening of the market 10 years ago following the disastrous fire on April 30,2007. Docents to lead architectural/historical tours of the market have been recruited and trained and distinctive tee shirts ordered; publicity has been undertaken.

Chair Donna Sheeder reviewed the positive results of the first round of budget discussions by the DC Council and CM Charles Allen regarding the Eastern Market, including funds for a strategic plan for the Market and for the Eastern Market Metro Plaza.

The somewhat inconclusive meeting of the Tenant's Council to establish its priority needs and asks for the coming year was reviewed. It was clear that some issues had been addressed satisfactorily, but questions remained about the status of other desired improvements. An additional meeting of the Tenants' Committee will be held for this purpose.

The report of the Market Manager was received. The May report focused on progress accomplished regarding the HVAC, marketing and promotions and the newly installed plan for offering discounted parking for those shopping at the EM. Additionally, a status report on the number of vendors now signed up for the 300 block of 7th SE, recently taken over by DGS, to be run by the Market Manager.

A schedule of meetings of the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee for the remainder of the year was adopted: June 26, July 24, September 25, and November 11/20. No meetings are planned for August or October.

Part 2: Meeting to Discuss Leases for South Hall Merchants. On May 21 a meeting was held to address the long-standing issue of leases for vendors in the South Hall. The meeting was attended by 7 or 8 of vendors, and their attorney, and three representatives of the Department of Public Services and their attorney. The representatives of DGS included [Ikeogu \(I.K\) Imo](#), Associate Director for Portfolio Management, [John A.Stokes](#), Interim Associate Director of External Affairs, and Barry Margeson, the Market Manager.

The meeting was combative. The vendors stated that they have been without leases for many years and that on three occasions their offers to DGS were not accepted. DGS suggested that they move beyond the incriminations generated by past experience to resolve the issues. However, DGS proposed that an

existing appraisal be used for the start of negotiations, an idea the vendors had rejected already because of the unrealistic price structure that would have followed. Ikemo provided an ultimatum: the vendors are to come up with their own appraisal of the value of the various stalls within the South Hall by August 21, and that negotiations would be conducted from this base. The vendors questioned the short time line proposed, pointing out that the existing appraisal had required a much longer period. The final word was from the attorney working with the vendors: “we will get back to you.”