

Metropolitan Government of Nashville
and Davidson County

Freddie O'Connell, Mayor
Darrell Lane, Executive Director



Nashville Farmers' Market
900 Rosa L. Parks Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37208
615-880-2001
farmersmarket@nashville.gov

Nashville Farmers' Market Board Meeting Minutes February 20, 2024 – 9:30am

Announcement - *As information for our audience, if you are not satisfied with a decision made by the Farmers' Market Board today, you may appeal the decision by petitioning for a writ of cert with the Davidson County Chancery or Circuit Court. Your appeal must be filed within 60 days of the date of the entry of the board's decision. To ensure that your appeal is filed in a timely manner, and that all procedural requirements have been met, please be advised that you should contact your own independent legal counsel.*

Public Comments - *Individuals, requesting to address the Board, will be limited to three (3) minutes unless granted more time by the Board Chair. Each person authorized to speak is expected to state her/his name and address and the organization represented if any, and if the speaker reads prepared text, to provide a copy to Board staff.*

- I. Opening Announcement - 9:47 a.m.**
 - a. The Executive Director led the meeting due to a lack of quorum.
- II. Public Comments**
 - a. Mehmet with The Longest Thread would like to open more days during the week and would like to discuss a corner space. Mehmet didn't understand why his business would not be able to secure a corner booth at this time. Executive Director Darrell Lane stated that he would investigate the issue and discuss with Programs Manager Yolanda Manning.
- III. Approval of January 2024 special session meeting minutes**
 - a. Deferred until the next scheduled board meeting due to lack of quorum.
- IV. Jamaicaway space allocation proposal**
 - a. A representative from Jamaicaway was not present to present. In the absence of the business representative Executive Director Darrell Lane explained that Jamaicaway would like to adjust the seating area in their space but adding additional cold storage. By adding the additional cold

storage, the business would have less seating and not continue to rent additional coolers/freezers from the market.

V. Radical Shoots temporary space agreement

- a. Executive Director Darrell Lane wanted to address the agreement discussion from the January meeting. Director Lane explained that as a farmer that the business would qualify for the farmer discount that exists that encompasses the multiple booth discount of 25% for farmers who rent four or more booths and that he would also qualify for the STEP rent rate program over the next two years.

VI. Natchez Trace Wine Tasting Room Lease Termination by Default

- a. Executive Director Darrell Lane explained to the board that the business has ceased operations and by default would like to move forward with termination of the lease per Section 18. Metro Legal advised that board approval is not necessary since the business has ceased operations. Market Staff will move forward with Section 18 of the lease and move forward on lease termination.

VII. Approval of market house handbook revision

- a. Deferred until the next scheduled board meeting due to lack of quorum.

VIII. Approval of market house lease amendment

- a. Deferred until the next scheduled board meeting due to lack of quorum.

IX. Executive Director's Report

- a. Refining Business Operations:
 - i. Review and update all NFM Handbooks to reflect growth and advancement to goals.
 - ii. Revised Service & Information Center to grow SNAP program and expand branded merchandise sales.
 - iii. Develop a productive dry/cold storage area that enhances vendor needs.
 - iv. Restrict farmer warehouse food sourcing to only out of season produce. Improve local food quality.
- b. Market General Presentation:
 - i. Facilities and overall maintenance needs planned and executed.
 - ii. Higher outdoor presentation standards and beautification of grounds.
 - iii. Improved signing property wide.
- c. Financial Accountability:
 - i. Shed vendors rent increased to market rates.
 - ii. Reduce subsidy below 2023 amount.
 - iii. Maximize commercial kitchen growth and results.
- d. Community Engagement:
 - i. Increase outdoor market festivals to eight.
 - ii. Improve partnerships.
 - iii. New Vanderbilt Farmers Market program.
- e. Farmers Market Vendor Growth:

- i. Expand vendor membership footprint.
- ii. Increase rental events inside and outside.
- iii. Increase farmer’s rental discount to 25% for 4 or more booth spaces. New farmers get a 1 year 50% discount in monthly rent.
- iv. Increase in vending options for visiting vendors.

X. Market Staff Reports

- a. Facilities
 - i. Facility Manager Charles Kizer presented previous, current, and ongoing a facility opportunities and improvements during the previous three months.
- b. Finance
 - i. Finance Manager David Griffin presented financial reports through Jan. 31, 2024, and discussed the current projections for the remainder of FY24. David also discussed the progress with the FY25 budget, and that the department would be meeting with OMB and the Mayor’s office at the end of March to finalize for inclusion in the Mayor’s budget proposal to the Metro Council.

XI. Final Comments - None

XII. Adjournment - 10:53 a.m.

Name	Organization
Ashley Moore	The Picnic Tap
Bennett Alvaro	Lynchburg Soap
Ronald Cerdas	Succulent Vegan
Mehmet Kesimli	The Longest Thread
Troy Smiley	Smiley's Farm
Scott Moskovitz	NFM Board
Dr. Brenda Butka	NFM Board
Theresa Costonis	Metro Legal
Erica Haber	Metro Legal
Darrell Lane	NFM Executive Director
Heather Hoch	NFM Staff
Charles Kizer	NFM Staff
David Griffin	NFM Staff