

Statement of Mary Ellen Chadd, Secretary of PFMA read to the Public Safety Health & Human Service Committee in Portland Tuesday, April 9th, 2013

Good Evening Councilors,

My name is Mary Ellen Chadd. I live at 340 Pine Street in South Portland and lease land in Cape Elizabeth where I operate Green Spark Farm with my husband. I've been in the market since 2009. I am here tonight representing the Portland Farmer's Market Association.

We would like to extend the hours of the Saturday market for one additional hour. Now the Saturday market operates 7 to 12 noon in Deering Oaks. We would like you to approve extending the market to close at 1 pm instead of at noon. The market has been increasing in both popularity and new vendors. Due to rapid growth the market has been experiencing crowded parking.

I initially suggested in 2010 to the former market manager Daniel Price that we might be able to alleviate parking by expanding Saturday market hours. Additionally it would certainly benefit the customers to have access to a weekend market for an additional hour, as well as benefiting the farmers.

In a vote at our annual meeting this February, with 30 out of 37 vendors present, 19 were in favor, 4 were opposed, and 1 abstained; this motion passed.

I hope you will seriously consider this request.

Thank you.

Additional Minutes of this meeting:

Respectfully submitted Mary Ellen D Chadd 4 12 13

Discussion of special events in the park, and City Attorney mentioned that the market is used to accommodating special events, and our previous agreements with other organizations would likely be upheld the same as they have in recent years (leaving early at noon, or on time due to special events). Mary Ellen said that the market would be happy to accommodate special events as always.

Councilors voted: Unanimously in favor of this extension of hours on Saturday markets to 1 pm.