

# **Roles and Responsibility of the Anderson Island Citizens' Advisory Board (AICAB)**

**Handout distributed from Dick Muri to AICAB members and audience members at January 2006 AICAB meeting**

## **1. Roles and Responsibility of AICAB members**

The AICAB was formed from Anderson Island citizens who were "selected" and "nominated" from ten primary Island organizations. The reason for using this method was to ensure a broad representation of the Island as a whole, rather than selecting members from a narrow focus or special interest group, regardless of political affiliations, friendships with the Pierce County Executive and/or the members of the Pierce County Council. The nominations (primary and secondary) from the ten organizations were sent to the Pierce County Executive for consideration. The ten selections from the Pierce County executive were then sent to the county council for confirmation.

Section 2.61.030 of the Pierce County Code states "The AICAB shall consist of ten voting members, one representative FROM each of the following Anderson Island organizations:" The key word is "from" meaning that the AICAB representatives were taken from, selected from, drawn from, the organizations.

The AICAB Bylaws also state in Article II "The AICAB shall consist of ten voting members, one representative "from" each of the following Anderson Island organizations:"

The County Code and AICAB Bylaws are official, legally binding documents, and as such each word is carefully chosen according to its definition. The dictionary defines the word "from" as follows: "Used to indicate source of origin, Used to specify a starting point in an expression of limits."

In application of the above reference the AICAB members/representatives originated from, started from, the organizations from which they were selected.

The individual and independent responsibility of each AICAB member is further clarified in Section 2.61.100 of the Pierce County Code that states "Each voting member of the AICAB shall be entitled to one vote on any matter duly before the

Board".

Article VI of the AICAB Bylaws states the same and adds "Votes are accorded solely to the representatives, not to the organizations". The word "solely" is defined as "exclusively or only" and clearly specifies that AICAB votes are exclusive and only the votes of the AICAB representative, not the organization from which they were drawn. Nowhere in the AICAB by-laws or County code are there stipulations or requirements set forth for the AICAB members/representatives to comply with any of the following:

1. Serve on the board of the organization from which they were selected.
2. Attend meetings of the organization from which they were selected.
3. Report to the organization from which they were selected.
4. Obtain input from the organization to base their AICAB decisions or votes upon
5. Vote according to the preferences of the organization from which they were selected (This action is actually in violation of the mandated voting responsibility of the AICAB representative as stated in the AICAB Bylaws.)

It is left to the discretion of each AICAB member to determine how they can best represent the interests of the Island. AICAB members may wish to do none of the above or some of the above, but there is no obligation to comply with any of the above. Because there are no such specifications it is inappropriate for any AICAB member to be denigrated by fellow AICAB members or members of the organization from which they were selected for not complying with expectations of others.

Once the AICAB member has been selected from an Island organization, they are then confirmed by the County Council and appointed by the County Executive. Following confirmation they are then considered to be "agents" of the County, and in fact are covered by the County's liability insurance for their actions. In their role as AICAB member/representative they are acting independently of their nominating organization, and are not held to any specified responsibility to their nominating organization. This is further evidence of the autonomy of the AICAB representative, and a clear distinction between the representative and the organization from which they were drawn.

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## **2. AICAB Responsibility To Advise On Ferry Issues**

The official, legally binding documents of the AICAB clearly state the AICAB's duty and responsibility for involvement in ferry service.

Section 2.61.020 of the Pierce County Code states:

"The AICAB shall serve in an advisory capacity to the County Council and Executive. The purpose of the AICAB is to facilitate a structured two-way communication process between the County and Island residents, property owners and business owners regarding significant issues affecting the community within Pierce County's jurisdiction. Issues include, but are not limited to, land use, environmental regulations, infrastructure, schools, ferry service, and public safety." The County Code clearly charges the Anderson Island Citizens Advisory Board with responsibility to advise on issues relating to "ferry service"

Article I of the AICAB Bylaws contains identical wording.

Ferry service to Anderson Island affects every resident on Anderson Island. While some of the other areas of responsibility designated to the AICAB may affect some or none of the islanders, such as land use or school concerns, the ferry service is the one area that affects everyone. As such, the AICAB would be neglecting its stated purpose in the County code and bylaws if the AICAB did not address ferry issues.

At the Ferry Town Hall Meeting on August 24, 2005 Toby Rickman, Deputy Director of Public Works stated "We have been told by the County Executive that we will get our input through the AICAB."

Since the AICAB is the officially appointed advisory body from Anderson Island to the County, we are looking to the AICAB to forward recommendations on ferry service issues and concerns.