

AICAB REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (corrected)
April 12, 2013 @ Anderson Island Community Clubhouse
(AICAB Approved)

Present: Joe Howells, Carol Pascal, Dr. Charlene Holt, Ann Dasch, Pat Owen, Rich Sullivan, Bobbi Sullivan, Steve Woolley, Dave Jacobsen. **Excused:** Ed Stephenson.

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum: A quorum was confirmed and the Meeting was called to order by the Chair at approximately 7:01 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was observed.

Adoption of Agenda: It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed meeting agenda as printed.

Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests: Chairman Howells welcomed Councilmember Doug Richardson and his Assistant Alice Sniffen. He also welcomed Casey Broom from the Pierce County Office of Emergency Management.

Approval of January 11, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes: It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2013 Regular Meeting as written.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dasch reported that the checkbook balance is \$172.66, however a reimbursement request for \$477.79 is pending with Pierce County. AICAB is current on its room rental payments through February.

Ferry System Liaison's Report: Ann Dasch reviewed the 2012 performance report for the Ferry system. Ridership in 2012 was down by nearly four percent from 2011, in part because of the elimination of exempt passage. Paid ridership was down by about 2 percent. Both youth and senior/disabled ridership is down, possibly in part because of a new policy of spot checking eligibility for discounted tickets. The ferries operated on time at almost 98 percent in 2012, consistent with 2011. Fully 85 percent of vehicles left behind (overloads) in 2012 were during peak season. Workload pressures from the County's airport operations are sighted as the reason for recent cancelling of scheduled County ferry committee meetings. The County has begun work on the 2014-15 fare schedule planning. They have committed to continuing the 50% fare box recovery target for operating expenses in place now. Fare box revenue in 2012 was about \$160,000 below target. Ridership in the first three months of 2013 is actually up by about 2.5 percent over the same period in 2012.

Business Community Liaison's Report: Dave Jacobsen noted that the role of Business Community Liaison is new this year, with a purpose of reaching out to the Island business community to ensure their concerns and suggestions are heard. We want that community to be successful. Initial concerns we are hearing include the impact of unlicensed contractors on the legitimate, licensed contractors on the Island. A lack of a common voice from the business community for their interests and needs is also cited. It is noted that infrastructure limitations, notably adequate data communications, and the absence of public transportation and pedestrian-friendly roadways – are impediments to businesses – as is the lack of a

visitor friendly image for the Island. A couple of business community members have already offered to host get-togethers for members of that community to start coming together. A suggestion was made by AICAB member Woolley to consider holding a business fair to introduce members of the business community to the community at large.

Community Forum - County Council Update: Councilmember Richardson noted that the State Department of Ecology has taken issue with the County's revisions to the Shoreline Management Plan. Some points just simply require clarification, but there are also some real sticking points. The County planning staff will be back out to meet with AICAB and the Island community this summer before going forward with any changes. Jacob's Point Park will require a Substantial Shoreline Development Permit but Councilperson Richardson is working to ensure this does not drag out and jeopardize funding for the park development. Councilperson Richardson also commented on recent ferry issues including the power outage impact on the ferry, and the challenges with the Bank of America processing of on-line ferry ticket purchases.

Community Forum – Emergency Preparedness: Casey Broom shared an overview of the Pierce County Office of Emergency Management organization, responsibilities and services. Responsibilities range from emergency communications to fire prevention to search and rescue to E9-1-1. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would be activated in the event of an emergency, and would provide support to our local fire department. In the event of a major disaster on the Island, a mobile emergency operations unit would be set up on the Island to lead the response efforts, including deployment of County assets. A new, state-of-the-art emergency communications center has just come on line, and it is capable of handling multiple events, and backing up E911 as well as the State Emergency Operations center. Ms. Broom overviewed the PCNet program. These are neighborhood “block watch” type groups that “plan ahead” for potential disasters by determining how neighbors can depend on and support one another. No special skills are required. Neighborhood members gather supplies, develop plans and may practice drills in preparation. There is also a disaster “mitigation” program that focuses on minimizing long-term risks of disaster impact, such as impact to water systems like that in Riviera. Grant money is available for retrofits and reinforcement of infrastructure. They are already working with Tanner Electric on underground utilities. They also have a myriad of training programs for citizens, children, first responders, and community leaders for preparation, response, and recovery from disasters.

In response to questions and comments, it was indicated that community training requests, or requests for help with setting up PCNet teams should be directed to the Office of Emergency Management. It was also noted that the County does have plans for responding to radiological acts of terrorism in cooperation with the State of Washington. Work was started on adding the Riviera as an “annex” to the County's Disaster Mitigation Plan. Steve Woolley will follow-up on completing that effort. Ms. Broom will follow-up on a question about mitigation plans for minimizing disabling damage to the ferry docks from natural disasters.

Unfinished Business:

McNeil Island Use Update – Dave McGoldrick

Dave McGoldrick noted that the State Office of Financial Management started a study of possible post-prison uses for McNeil about a year ago. Consultants were hired and hearings conducted, and a lengthy report was prepared. The deeds acquired by the State for McNeil Island required that it can only be used for a prison or a wildlife sanctuary. There does not seem to be strong interest on the part of the Federal Government to take McNeil Island back. The State of Washington is reluctant to combine a public use (e.g. parks) with the current use of the island for the Special Commitment Center. The report has gone to the State Legislature and one general meeting has been held, but with no substantive action at this time, other than a proposal to do an appraisal of the parcel (and structures) of the old prison, but there is no provision to pay for that appraisal. There is an issue of the cost of dealing with hazardous materials (e.g. asbestos) at the old prison site. Dave will let us know of any future development.

Dredge Material Dumping Update -- Board Chair

The Chair sent a letter to Celia Barton with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He shared orally the correspondence to and from Ms. Barton regarding any recent or planned approved dumping of dredge materials between Anderson and Ketron Islands. Ms. Barton advised that the only activity has been the Zittel's Marina dredge project for nine disposals, with the last being on January 14, 2012. As far as future activity, an Olympia Yacht Club dredge project has been approved for about 9,000 cubic feet of disposal. That permit expires in 2015.

Shoreline Master Plan Update -- Board Chair

The Chair sent a letter to Debbie Hyde, who is coordinating the County's revisions to the Plan, asking for an update. Ms. Hyde indicated that there is no change to the plan at this time. The recommendation was sent to the County Council in the middle of October. State Ecology had made several comments on the proposed Plan, some just requiring clarification, some more substantive disagreement. A County Committee is reviewing the information, and will hold public hearings in the future. Jennifer Schultz is the staff to the Committee working on the review, and the AICAB Chair has been added to the list of Interested Parties for these future hearings. Councilman Richardson's Assistant will also notify the AICAB Chair of other hearings on this subject by other Council committees.

New Business:

Island Internet Access Concerns – Board Chair

Chairman Howells was contacted by Bev Theofelis regarding slow internet speeds on the Island. Bev has subsequently been in contact with Councilman Richardson's Assistant, Alice Sniffen on this issue. Council Assistant Sniffen is working to get some answers from CenturyLink management, and will share that response when she gets it. Bev indicated the problem is widespread with Islanders and even folks on Key Peninsula. She has been given several different accounts of what may be going on. Many in the audience indicated that they thought their internet service was slower than it should be. It was noted that distance from the switching equipment may be a key factor. DSL speeds are effected by, among other things the length of the copper wire to the house from CenturyLink's equipment. CenturyLink does not guarantee speed for service more than 18,000 feet from that equipment. They offer a "no guarantee" DSL service called Extended Reach DSL that many Islanders have as their only choice. There was also

discussion of alternatives to DSL including satellite, wireless hotspots, and maybe in the future fiber optics through Tanner Electric. The Chair will share the information that Council Assistant Sniffen gets back from CenturyLink.

Military Helicopter Flyover Concerns – Board Chair

The Chair had sent a letter to Joint Base Lewis McCord public affairs summarizing the concerns of some Islanders regarding the frequency and pattern of military helicopter flights over the Island, as well as the lack of response from the Base on those concerns. Chairman Howells received a quick response from JBLM indicating that they had been awaiting approval from the FAA to shift their OH58B Kiowa helicopter holding plan to over McNeil Island rather than Anderson Island. This change had already been approved by the State of Washington, and has now been approved by the FFA to take effect on May 8, 2013. Peter Sato asserted that this only solves part of the problem from his point of view. Other “unscheduled free flight” helicopter (Blackhawks and Chinooks) training flights may still continue over the Island, and he sees this as an ongoing safety concern, especially when he starts to fly his seaplane in and out of Lake Florence. Councilman Richardson will follow-up on Peter’s remaining concerns.

Issues and Comments for the Floor:

Interest was expressed by a member of the new Anderson Island American Legion Post on possible AICAB membership. Councilman Richardson will look into the process for amending the County ordinance creating AICAB to make a change in the list of member organizations. The Legion Post will prepare a formal letter of request to AICAB for consideration.

Steve Woolley noted that the Fire Department does now have a program to provide CO detectors for low income families if needed.

Announcements and Adjournment:

The AICAB April, 2013 Regular Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at approximately 8:25 p.m.