

AICAB MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

April 8, 2016

(Subject to AICAB Approval)

Members Present: Joe Howells, Rich Sullivan, Dave Albertson, Bobbi Sullivan, Pat Owen, Buzz Thome, Lauren Kirby, Carol Paschal, Elizabeth Emerick, Chris Frye. Guests: Doug Richardson, Dick Muri, Steve ? from Hornblower.

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum: The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Howells at approximately 7:00 P.M. The roll was called and a quorum was confirmed. The pledge of Allegiance was observed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Approved as written.

Purpose for Special Meeting: Chairman Howells explained that the meeting will be devoted to hearing from and reacting to Pierce County's plan for a new ferry schedule, as well as a general discussion on ferry issues. He asked that those wishing to ask a question sign up, and those with comments limit them to 3 minutes.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2016, as written.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented.

Legislative update from Dick Muri: The short session was just completed. The Charter School issue was resolved in a controversial and split decision. No new taxes were approved, and the only funds taken from the rainy day fund were for costs related to fighting wild fires. 27 vetoes were overridden.

County Council Update from Doug Richardson: He is now chair of the County Council. An upcoming ballot measure, Prop 1, will deal with retail sales of marijuana in unincorporated Pierce County. The Department of Ecology has listened to both sides on the Shoreline Master Plan and will submit recommendations, based on community comments to the council. The Comp Plan is at the Puget Sound Regional Council for approval. He has sent letters he has received regarding ferry issues to the County Executive. After April 30, if you request information directly from him, he can't automatically respond due to election laws.

Report from Deb Wallace: There is a gear replacement problem with the Steilacoom II due to a design flaw. Increased ferry delays are mostly due to trains and full loads. Underwater inspections were approved for the Christine Anderson which eliminates the need for dry dock work and will

save ½ million dollars. Fare recovery is at 47%, with the goal still at 50%. The county is now using Hornblower's insurance, saving \$140,000/year. A new ticketing system will be introduced in July, which will include mobile ticketing, an app for a smart phone and a fare card. The WTS is finished, recommending two boat service on Friday evenings, and Sunday afternoon, beginning in July, and a 4:45 morning run and later run on Monday-Wednesday, to begin in 2017

She introduced a proposed new ferry schedule that starts 15 minutes earlier in the morning, designed to get commuters to major employment hubs by 8:00 am, and also stretches time between ferries by 10-15 minutes to reduce loading delays. She said the changes are based on what the data tells us. It is just a proposal, and open for discussion. (It would eliminate one run/day).

Questions from the audience:

What is the plan to resolve the gear design problem, and will the CA have the same issue?

- A marine engineering firm is working on the problem
- The CA is designed differently, so shouldn't have the same problem

Why are the extra runs being delayed until 2017, when the need is pressing now?

- It is a budget issue

Why aren't your comments reflecting the fact that AICAB has already made specific recommendations on the issues you're talking about?

- There is no budget for AICAB's recommendations

Why pick 8:00 am as a target for commuters getting to work? It doesn't match the modern work day.

- No real answer

What is the backup plan if both vessels are out of commission at the same time again?

- Charter vessels (but would take 12 hours to get in), work with prison boats, Kitsap County, and look into floats.

What are the chances of extra runs before 2017

- Doug answered that he will brief the council on AICAB's recommendations, and will be an advocate for us.

Has the County looked in to a FEMA port security grant?

- Doesn't think it would be applicable.

Who performs the maintenance on the ferries?

- HMS, Public Works and Equipment ?

Are there any restrictions on keeping large county trucks off the ferries at peak times?

- Considerations are made

Why is there so much turn over at Hornblower?

- They are basically a training ground, take inexperienced people and help them to move on to better jobs.

How are late boats coded? What is reported as the reason is not always the case.

- The Captain immediately codes and reports the reason for the delay.

Can we see the details on wages, benefits, turnovers, etc. from Hornblower?

- Bruce will look in to it.

Comments:

The County is not taking responsibility. These are old issues that have been discussed for years, but change never occurs.

Rider alerts are better, but other methods of communication need to be offered.

Maybe there should be a surcharge for people needing the extra runs.

Thanks to the County for having the best ferry system. Don't raise fares to add new runs.

Not enough is being done.

Next Steps:

There will be another ferry meeting on May 12. AICAB did not request this meeting.

Doug will present AICAB's position at an upcoming council committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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