

ANDERSON ISLAND CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

January 12, 2023, MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

This meeting was a conducted both in person at the AL Community Center and via ZOOM.

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum: Chair Jacob Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 pm. A quorum was confirmed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

County guests Jani Hitchen, Trever Threde, Steve Caputo, Shawn Lewis and Melissa Beard (both from the Steilacoom School District), and Rick Anderson (from the Parks Department) were welcomed.

Approval of Agenda Items:

It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as written.

It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve the October 14, 2022, AICAB meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Cunningham gave the treasurer's report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Comprehensive Plan Update**

Ellen reported that the county says there has been no action on the comprehensive plan nor has there been any planning yet. Jani is going to double check on this,

- **Ferry System Update and Christine Anderson Dry Dock Status**

There are technical issues that have delayed the return of the Christine Anderson. The cooler for the pumps is not working and must be repaired. Once the boat is ready it will take another week to get it tested and approved by the Coast Guard before it can be returned, and then another week before it can be put into service.

- **Ferry Schedule Proposal Update**

Re Jani and Trever, we can't add runs to the schedule, nor modify the earliest and latest runs, and we are constrained regarding times for shift changeover and training. We have been trying for some time to find a schedule solution that works better for islanders (especially for the school kids). Heather and Eric are working on a specific proposal, and we would like to know whether the county will consider this once the proposal is submitted and what obstacles we might face. Trever responded that AICAB has recommended schedule changes. The county currently has a consulting company looking at the 20-year ferry budget, and schedules have gone to this group to determine the most efficient schedule and the cost of any changes. Also, HMS must accept any changes since it involves changes to their contract. The consultant report is due in April, which is when the budgeting process gets underway.

The county is trying to better accommodate the school schedule as well as serve all islanders. Trevor will brief us on the consultants' report when ready. Trever also discussed the inclement weather scheduling and fare increases A new survey is coming soon and it is vital that the county get feedback from ferry users. He also provided alerts regarding the Coast Guard inspections coming up soon and repairs required for the Ketron Island hydraulic apron which will disrupt service.

- **Emergency Management Plan Update**

Pierce County was working on this. Aaron at the Fire Department is the point of contact for this and is working with the county. Gabe is going to look into this. Once the plan is completed, the Chief wants AICAB to distribute it to the island.

- **Villa Beach Erosion Update**

No public works staff present, so no update available.

- **Four Way Stop at General Store Intersection**

No public works staff present, so no update available.

- **Proposal to Extend AI Elementary to Include 4th and 5th Grades**

The Steilacoom School District, responding to island parents who would like AI Elementary to extend to 4th and 5th grades, will put a bond issue before the voters in February that includes this. Besides a new school in Dupont, expanding the high school, and a middle school, this bond issue will also include the following items for Anderson Island Elementary: a new playground, new walking track, and a new teacher and classroom for the 2025/2026 school year. Melissa and Shawn, representatives of the district, answered questions about the timing of the change and whether it would be possible to add the two grades any sooner. The requirement for a new classroom is the piece that will take the most time, even if we were to use a temporary structure.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Ferry Parking Lot-Entry and Exit Issues**

There was some brief discussion, but no county Public Works staff were present, so this was tabled.

- **Proposal to Amend AICAB Ordinance to Replace the AICC Rep with one from Island Arts**
It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote to replace the AICC representative with a representative from Island Arts. Jani agreed to push this through.
- **Security/Enforcement Issues at AI Parks-Rick Anderson**
Rick Anderson gave the background and history of enforcement on the island and the current problems occurring in the parks with people not following rules and becoming belligerent, endangering others.
Rick asked if we could possibly introduce and support legislation to add a special taxing district in order to add a sheriff here. Rick estimated that it would add \$0.25 per thousand dollars to our property taxes and islanders would have to vote on it.
Rick also asked that we work with Pierce County roads department to close parking on Guthrie Road near the Old Swimming Hole.
And finally, Rick asked that the ferry workers not close the gate until the scheduled departure time.
- **AICAB Facebook Page for Island Communications**
It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote to create an AICAB Facebook page.
Jacob will do this.

Adjournment: It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm.
The next AICAB meeting is Thursday, April 12, 2023.