

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee
Date:	June 6, 2006
Location:	Gabriola Women's Institute Hall, Gabriola Island
Time:	6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>BC Ferries</i>
Fred Apstein	Captain Chris Frappell, Marine Superintendent, Southern Islands
Andre Lemieux, Chair	Mark Stefanson, Executive Director, Public Affairs
Cliff Turner for Eric Moeller	Geoff Dickson, Vice President, Food & Retail Operations
Dodd Pellant	Stephen Nussbaum, Manager Terminal Operations, Southern Islands
Steve Wohlleben	Gary Leitch, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Consultation
Randy Young	Betsy Terpsma, Community Relations Manager
<i>Observer:</i> Richard Goode, BCFMWU	

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Captain Chris Frappell.
- 2. Introductions:** BC Ferries staff and Ferry Advisory Committee members completed introductions.
- 3. Election of Chair:** Andre Lemieux was unanimously elected Chair of the Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee.
- 4. Approval of Agenda:**
The agenda was approved with the following additions: a written proposal from Randy Young was added under correspondence; subject of new member was added under New Business.
- 5. Presentations:**
 - a. Public – none.

b. Marine Superintendent's Operations Report

Captain Chris Frappell presented the Marine Superintendent's Operations report with additional information on safety, traffic and capital expenditures at the terminals and on the vessels. The report prompted additional discussion on Gabriola traffic statistics which are slightly down from the previous year.

BC Ferries confirmed the upcoming Master Planning process for Descanso Bay and Nanaimo Harbour will look at the functional requirements for the ferry service in the next 20 to 25 years. The process will include additional public consultation with the FAC and the community. BC Ferries noted that the Nanaimo Harbour Terminal land is under a 60 year lease by BC Ferries from the Ministry of Transportation.

The planned upgrade to the Quinsam's passenger accommodations in 2007/2008 includes new flooring, seating and upgraded washrooms.

A discussion of safety and traffic issues at Descanso Bay resulted in a recommendation from Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee to BC Ferries.

Action: In the interests of safety, the FAC recommends that BC Ferries negotiate a second turn around at an appropriate location at the bottom of the hill at Descanso Bay and improve the signage for the turn-around and the line-up.

6. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting – April 18, 2005:

a. Proposal for hot dog stand at Descanso Bay

A hot dog stand operated last year. Because of liability insurance requirements this small business will not operate for the summer of 2006.

b. Taylor Bay Road update including signage

As requested by the Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee, a new sign indicating a one sailing wait is on order.

c. Traffic statistics

Traffic statistics were reviewed as part of the Marine Superintendent's Report.

d. Nanaimo Harbour Terminal updates including dog walk area.

There is no appropriate area for a dog walk at Nanaimo Harbour; however the installation of pick-up bags along the fence and a garbage can appears to have solved some of the issues for customers with dogs.

e. Terminal Beautification at Nanaimo Harbour

The Ferry Advisory Committee is still interested in seeing signage and promotion "Gateway to Gabriola Island" at Nanaimo Harbour Terminal. The idea of installing juried banners prepared by school kids at the terminal in the summer time was discussed.

Action: Stephen Nussbaum and Steve Wohlleben to work together (beginning in September, i.e. at the start of the school year) on coordinating a banner program for the summer season of 2006/07.

7. New Business:

a. Coast Card

Geoff Dickson presented BC Ferries proposal for the use of the Coast Card for commuter tickets. The cards are at the discussion stage. Approximately 81% of Gabriola customers use commuter tickets designed for residents and regular users. Ferry Advisory Committee members suggested that cards could be a certain value to avoid the expiry date issue. Multiple cards on the same account were suggested. Committee members liked the concept and new technology of the Coast Card and recommended no expiry dates.

Action: BC Ferries will summarize information received on Coast Cards from the various the Ferry Advisory Committees and report back on next steps.

b. Public Consultation for new Coastal Ferry Services Contract

Mark Stefanson made a presentation on the upcoming negotiation for the second performance term of the Coastal Ferry Service Contract, April 2008 – April 2012.

BC Ferries is beginning to discuss the contract with the Ministry of Transportation and the BC Ferry Commissioner. BC Ferries is recommending additional community consultation around this important issue for Island communities. BC Ferries encourages the Ferry Advisory Committee and the Islands Trust to become involved with the process.

It was noted that route financial information is available on the BC Ferry Commissioner's web site at <http://www.bcferrycommission.com/index.html>

c. Ferry Advisory Committee Review

Mark Stefanson also reported that a Ferry Advisory Committee Review was completed last fall. BC Ferries remains committed to the Ferry Advisory Committee process and will work to improve feedback on issues and action items. On behalf of BC Ferries Mark thanked the committee members for their ongoing involvement and many hours of volunteer support.

d. Fuel Surcharge

A ruling by the BC Ferry Commissioner is expected in the next two weeks on the BC Ferries application for an additional fuel charge. Fuel costs are roughly 30 to 40% of operating costs for BC Ferries. The fuel surcharge goes directly to the fuel deferral account. There was a discussion on options for saving fuel including using an auto-pilot system. Because of the short sailing time and the busy Nanaimo Harbour route, an auto pilot option is not feasible for Rte 19. The company is required by the Commissioner to make fuel savings of 1% this year and 1% the following year.

e. New Member

Action: Subject to approval by local government, the FAC would like to invite retired Master Elgin McKillop to join the Gabriola FAC. BC Ferries will discuss and respond to the Ferry Advisory Committee Chair within a month.

8. Correspondence:

A written proposal on Gabriola Island Ferry Services was received from FAC member Randy Young. (Attached).

9. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 19, 2006

10. Meeting adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Approved:

Captain Chris Frappell, Marine Superintendent

Date: July 4, 2006

Andre Lemieux, Chair

Date: July 8, 2006