

Meeting Details:

FAC:	Gabriola Island Ferry Advisory Committee
Date	June 16, 2009
Location:	Gabriola Golf & Country Club
Time:	6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee	BC Ferries
Andre Lemieux, Chair	Rob Clarke, Executive Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer
Randy Young	Captain Christian (Chris) Frappell, Marine Superintendent, Southern Islands
John Woods	Mark Stefanson, Vice President, Public Affairs
Dodd Pellant	Grant Bierlmeier, Director, Tariff and Revenue
Absent: Erik Andersen	Jason Bowman, Terminal Director, Central Region
Eric Moeller	Melanie Lucia, Regional Terminal Manager, Nanaimo
Public: There were 5 members of the public in attendance.	Sarah Cotton, Manager, Stakeholder Relations
Media: Derek Kilbourn of the Gabriola Sounder and Chris Bowers of the Flying Shingle	

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Round table introductions were completed.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** One addition to the agenda was added - Soundproofing of the Quinsam lounge during next refit.
- 4. Correspondence:** Three pieces of correspondence regarding seniors travel and a letter from a Gabriola Island resident regarding the noise levels of the Coastal Inspiration at the Duke Point Terminal are attached.
- 5. Presentations:**
 - a. Public Presentations**
Randy Nicifore asked what the public's involvement is at the FAC meetings. Rob Clarke responded that it is a meeting open to the public and clarified that it is a meeting of the committee, and is not intended to be a meeting *with* the public.

b. Operations Report

Captain Chris Frappell presented the Marine Operations report with information on safety and security, traffic, on time performance and vessels. This report is attached.

John Woods asked if soundproofing would be done on the Quinsam during the second half of the vessel's midlife refit, as her engines are louder since her last refit. Captain Frappell replied that when she comes back from the next refit, the exhaust won't be going through the engine room twice. In addition, going through a silencer should lessen the noise levels.

ACTION: Captain Frappell to look at the sound insulation.

At the previous meeting, the FAC wanted to know the cost of doing the rock work last spring and see an engineering report.

ACTION: Rob Clarke offered to provide an engineering overview of the rock work that took place. COMPLETED.

c. Tariff Rationalization

Grant Bierlmeier continued the discussion from last fall around Route 19 and tariff rationalization for April 1, 2010.

Guiding Principles:
Revenue Neutrality
Simplicity
Reasonability

Grant stated that he wanted to get the FAC's thoughts on moving the fuel surcharges/rebates from a flat amount to a percentage surcharge/rebate.

Grant also proposed a \$2.00 charge for bicycles across the fleet. However, if a customer were to use their Experience Card, the customer would get a discount of \$2.00 on that charge at the \$75 load level therefore making the bicycle free of charge.

Grant discussed possibly eliminating the overweight vehicle charge. Overlength vehicles would potentially be charged the underheight base rate for the first 20 feet, and charged the commercial rate for the extra feet.

BC Ferries is looking at increasing the buy-in level for the Experience Card when the fares go up April 1st of each year. The buy-in level would then remain relevant as fares increase..

BC Ferries is also looking at discontinuing the passenger only buy-in level as less than 2% of users actually purchase the \$40 buy-in level. In April 2010, BCF would look at one buy-in level of \$85 (Price TBD) and the price would subsequently increase each year.

ACTION: Gabriola FAC to review the tariff rationalization proposals and get back to BC Ferries at the fall meeting with feedback on the aforementioned items.

6. FAC Business

The Gabriola Bridge Survey which was developed by Vancouver Island University, was distributed to Gabriola residents on May 5, 2009. 548 Surveys were mailed and as of June 1, 2009, 271 surveys were completed and some are still coming in. This is viewed as an excellent return. The analysis of the survey will be done by university volunteers and a first draft will be available by the end of June. After preliminary consultation with the FAC, a final report by the staff should be available before the end of July.

The FAC mentioned that the women's washroom cubicle at the Nanaimo Terminal is extremely small and difficult to access with small children.

ACTION: Nanaimo Terminal Maintenance to look at the washroom in the next week.

Regarding the loading procedures on the Quinsam, the FAC stated that in order to reduce idling on the vessel, it would be appreciated if those unloading would follow the same loading procedure.

ACTION: Captain Frappell to speak with the Senior Master.

7. Next Meeting: October/November 2009.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Approved:

Chair, Andre Lemieux

Date: September 23, 2009

Captain Chris Frappell, BC Ferries

Date: August 10, 2009