



FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 20, 2003
Coast Town Centre, Powell River
1:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

Attendees:

Table with 2 columns: Committee and BC Ferries. Lists names of attendees from both organizations.

Guests:

Mark Stefanson
Vice President, Communications Dept.

1. Call to order

Captain Monaghan called the meeting to order. Self-introductions were made by all present.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was revised to add Retirement Presentation under New Business.

3. Public Presentations

Ferry Advisory Committee Members reviewed Ms. Braack's letter regarding the elevator on the Queen of Burnaby. The elevator is located in the centre of the Queen of Burnaby and within the confines of the centre casing and due to fire protection and space restrictions, double doors are not an option. When the elevator was tested, the fastest response time for passengers requesting the elevator is approximately one minute and the longest response time was three minutes.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of October 30, 2002 were approved.

Review of Action Items:

- a) All complete

5. Correspondence

None

6. New Business

a BC Ferries Restructuring Presentation – Mark Stefanson

- A Power Point presentation provided information on the following aspects of the Core Review:
 - Current problems and concerns. What needs fixing?
 - Vision statement for the new corporate structure
 - The new business and financial framework
 - New business structure, including the Coastal Ferry Services Contract, BC Ferry Authority, BC Ferry Services and the Independent Regulator
 - A review of the benefits of the new structure
 - Expectations for the future
 - An overview of the current transition from BC Ferry Corporation to BC Ferry Services
 - Handouts included a copy of the presentation slides, a customer information sheet, and the Dec. 9, 2002 media release with backgrounder. These materials will be archived with the Minutes at the local library.

During and following the presentation, general discussion included:

- Suggestions on improved efficiency and reduced costs.
- The calculation of tariff under the new structure, including route groups.
- Subsidy and/or service fees allocated to specific routes – cross subsidization and the need for smaller routes to have sufficient financial support.
- Public consultation continues under the new BC Ferries structure.
- The future of the existing BC Ferries Capital Plan, it remains in place.
- Promotion of tourism. Oldest ships are located on the local routes.
- Plans for vessel replacement on local routes.
- Impact on Saltery Bay/Earls Cove route with the Queen of Chilliwack remaining in service on the Mid-coast longer than anticipated.
- Retendering for the construction of an intermediate vessel on Bowen Island, and the trickle down effect on the Saltery Bay/Earls Cove route.

b Length of Membership Terms - Captain Monaghan

- Discussed importance of continuity of FAC Members and agreed to have members serve 3 year terms, commencing January 1, 2003 and terminating December 31, 2005 with the option of being re-appointed for another 3 years.

c Route Operational Activity

- Powell River – Earl's Cove, Route 7
 - Queen of Chilliwack goes to refit in May and the Queen of Tsawwassen will come to this route.
 - The Ferry Advisory Committee reviewed the upcoming Summer 2003 Schedule.
- Comox – Powell River, Route 17
 - Queen of Burnaby will go to refit April 1 to April 28th and the Queen of Tsawwassen will be the relief vessel.
 - Effective June 26, 2003 the 08:00 a.m. departure from Westview will be 08:10 a.m. To assist with on time performance this summer, the second ticket booth will be opened and a cut off time for purchasing tickets will be enforced. The committee agreed to on time sailing departures.
 - Explanation was provided as to the perception of a long layover at 09:30 a.m. in Comox. This time is used for the crew to complete mandatory Transport Canada drills and to receive catering stores on board.
 - Various catering job descriptions will become 1 job description on this route to enhance customer service.

- Texada Island – Powell River, Route 18
 - The dock work is on schedule. Alternate plans for the 4 day closure at Blubber Bay in March is going well.
 - The North Island Princess will go to refit in September 2003.

d Additional Funding

- The committee discussed BC Ferry Services 15 year Capital Plan and factors that determine vessel location and replacement.

e Retirement Presentation - Captain Monaghan

- BC Ferries presented Bert Linder with a vest and thanked him for his participation on the Ferry Advisory Committee.

7. Action

Captain Monaghan will write a letter to Sr. Captain Keeper, carbon copied to all Masters on Route 17, on behalf of the Ferry Advisory Committee regarding their concern of the on time performance on the Comox to Powell River Route.

The Ferry Advisory Committee agreed to have Ann Carpenter issue a Service Notice in conjunction with the new schedule of June 26th informing the public of our scheduled departure times.

8. Next meeting

To be scheduled by Melanie Christensen and Greg Aivazoff for October 2003.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:40 p.m.

Approved: Captain Tony Monaghan
Greg Aivazoff, Chair:

Date: March 10, 2003
Date: April 11, 2003