

MINUTES OF MEETING

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 21, 2001

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Swartz Bay Retail Room

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Richard Dalon, Co/Chair, Mayne Island
Brian Hollingshead Co/Chair, Saturna Island
Al Ruggles, Mayne Island
Barry Wilkes, Mayne Island
Ross McKinnon, Pender Islands
Jill Justice, Pender Islands
Dave Dryer, Pender Islands
John Rumble, Pender Islands
Gerrard Farry, Salt Spring Island
Lee Middleton, Salt Spring Island
Andrew Loverage, Galiano Island
Bill Foster, Galiano Island
John Money, Saturna Island

BC Ferries:

Capt. Trafford Taylor
Capt. James Grimmer
Dave Barton
Steve Clapton
Gary Leitch
Gregg Clackson
Ian Downie
Clive Johnston
Mia Aleksich
Stephen Nussbaum

Regrets:

David Hutton, Galiano Island
David Birchall, Galiano Island

Guests:

Steve Harvey, BC Transit
Mr. Benko, Presenter

1. Call to Order:

1.1. Richard Dalon & Brian Hollingshead called the meeting to order.

2. Presentations from the Public:

2.1. Mr. G. Benko made a presentation to the Committee asking for more direct service between Swartz Bay and Mayne Island to better suit the needs of recreational property owners from the Victoria area.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting (May 15, 2001)

3.1. The Minutes of the May 15, 2001 meeting were approved.

4. Old Business

4.1. BC Transit/BC Ferries Schedule Coordination:

Mr. Steve Harvey, with BC Transit, provided the committee with an overview of the bus service scheduled to meet ferries at Swartz Bay. Mr. Harvey committed to review any requests from BC Ferries to make changes to the schedule to ensure coordination wherever feasible.

4.2. SGI Winter 2001/2002 Schedule Adjustment:

Capt. Grimmer provided the committee with the details of the revised schedule for Monday -Thursday afternoons needed to improve on-time performance; particularly the 6:30 p.m. commuter sailing from SWB to Pender Islands. The schedule changes were agreed to.

The improvement work on Berth #3 at SWB will create a few delays this winter due to the unavailability of the this dock during the construction work.

Action:

BC Ferries will make the necessary schedule adjustments to coincide with the next schedule reprint needed by the end of December. A communications plan for the implementation will be developed.

4.3. SGI Summer 2002 Schedule:

Capt. Grimmer led a discussion of the draft Summer schedule with changes made based on FAC input and internal operations input following this summer's schedule.

The general consensus is that the 2001 Summer schedule met most of the SGI travel requirements and that the Summer schedule for 2002 should be very similar. The overall goal for the SGI schedule is to keep it as consistent as possible from year to year.

In response to solid patronage of the second ship on the TSA – SGI – SSI, Capt. Taylor will make the case to extend it one week longer into the fall.

In 2001 the TSA departures were scheduled very close to other route departures and created traffic conflicts and delays. The departure times from TSA have been adjusted to eliminate these conflicts and minimize the delays. A meeting has been scheduled for late January in TSA to address other loading and traffic logistics problems.

The following summarizes additional changes requested by the committee:
Salt Spring Island:

- The main issue is to retain the 3 sailings of last year from the Mainland to Salt Spring on Fridays. In particular, the mid-day sailing from TSA at 2:30 p.m. is important to B & B operators to get weekend tourists to the Island early enough to make the most of the weekend. This request affects the scheduling of the Bowen Queen on Rt #9A.

Galiano Island:

- The 2001 summer schedule is generally good. The schedule emphasizes early departures from TSA to the SGI and late departures from the SGI back to TSA on weekends.

Saturna Island:

- The main issues include shortening the long layover for the transfer in Sturdies Bay on Friday evenings from TSA, provide a Saturday morning sailing to SWB, an earlier arrival from TSA on Saturday mornings and a later afternoon sailing from SWB on weekdays.

Mayne Island:

- The main issues include a more direct sailing on Sunday mornings from SWB and a later return.

Pender Islands:

- Generally last year's summer schedule was good. The main issues included an earlier sailing on Friday evenings and a request to shorten the transfer layover time at Village Bay.

Action:

BC Ferries will review the SGI Summer schedule and make the recommended changes where feasible. The completed schedule is planned for early distribution by Easter. The final schedule will be circulated to the Committee for information in early February.

4.4. Reestablishing the Southern Gulf Islands Advisory Committee:

Gary Leitch provided the Committee with an update of the Corporation's public consultation program. He advised that two new committees had been formally established; on the Sunshine Coast and on Salt Spring Island. BC Ferries will follow a similar process to formalize the SGI FAC by formally asking the local government, Islands Trust and CRD to forward the names of representatives to this committee.

Action:

Early in 2002, BC Ferries will write to the CRD and the Islands Trust asking for island representatives to be appointed to the SGI FAC. BC Ferries will provide the ads for the local newspapers asking that interested persons contact the CRD or Islands Trust.

5. New Business:

5.1. Through-fare between SGI – SWB – SSI

The committee would like BC Ferries to review the potential of creating a through-fare tariff category for trips between the SGI to Salt Spring Island via

SWB. Capt. Taylor advised that a change in the tariff would require an Order In Council from the Government.

Action:

The Committee will nominate three members, one from Salt Spring, one from Pender Islands and one from Saturna, to provide BC Ferries with a more detailed proposal. BC Ferries will then follow-up by including it in the next tariff review.

5.2. Saturna Island sailings to Salt Spring Island via a transfer connection at Village Bay:

The Committee asked BC Ferries to clarify if the existing unpublished connections from Saturna Island to Salt Spring Island through Village Bay are considered two separate inter-island trips or one inter-island trip with a transfer.

Action:

BC Ferries will review these sailings and provide a clarification.

5.3. Emergency Service:

Capt. Taylor advised that BC Ferries does not carry oxygen nor ice packs for medical emergencies on the smaller vessels.

6. Other Business

6.1. Terminal Capital Projects:

Steve Clapton, Manager Terminal Operations, provided the committee with an overview of the capital projects on the near horizon:

- Floating Lead replacements are planned for Sturdies Bay in December
- Ship to shore power systems Upgrades for most of the terminals
- Expansion of the Administration building at Long Harbour this summer to make space for staff from the Fulford Harbour office once it closes.
- A survey of the Otter Bay marine structures is being conducted to determine the scope of reconstruction needed.
- A review is being conducted of potential improvements to the pick-up and drop-off area including the taxi waiting area at Village Bay. A back-up generator system is also being reviewed.

6.2. Priority loading for commuters:

The committee would like to see priority loading for commuters to save a few minutes from their commuting time.

Action:

BC Ferries will review this request.

6.3. Identification card for through fare customers from TSA via SWB:

The Committee has suggested that an identification card system could be developed to help streamline the procedure of unloading from Rt #1 and returning to the ticket booths for the SGI leg of the trip.

Action:

BC Ferries will review the feasibility of an identification tag that would identify through-fare customers for unloading purposes. The tag can not assure loading at TSA nor assure the transfer connection at SWB.

6.4. Vending machines on the Mayne Queen:

The Committee requested that vending machines for coffee snacks and newspapers be installed on the Mayne Queen.

Action:

BC Ferries will review the feasibility of vending machines on the Mayne Queen.

7. Next Meeting

7.1. Richard Dalon resigned from the SGI FAC. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to work on this committee. In turn, the committee thanked Richard for the many valuable contributions he has made both on this committee and on the Coastal Council.

- The Committee nominated Ross McKinnon as the new co-chair.

7.2. The next meeting will be held at the call of the co-chairs.