

**SOUTHERN SUNSHINE COAST
FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 1, 2001
9:30 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Sechelt Municipal Hall**

Attendees:

Committee

Ed Steeves, Chair
Jakob Knaus
Don Murray
Conchita Harding
Angela Letman
Allan Crane
Byam Cameron

BC Ferries

Captain Steve Graham
Gary Leitch
Gerry Parker
David Elliott
Deborah Dykes

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Steeves welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Introductions

David Elliott, Horseshoe Bay Terminal Manager was introduced and will be attending committee meetings.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Dock work at Horseshoe Bay and parking were added to the agenda.

4.0 Previous Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of September 7, 2001 meeting was moved by Don Murray and seconded by Angela Letman. Motion carried.

Gerry Parker clarified that he has had a conversation with Bill Davies of Sunshine Coast Transit and that while Transit works with BC Ferries when ferry schedule changes affect transit passengers, but Transit sets their own schedule.

Motion to accept minutes of October 15 and 16 public meetings was moved by Allan Crane and seconded by Jakob Knaus. Motion carried.

5.0 Delegations (no delegations)

6.0 Correspondence

A package of correspondence from the public regarding schedule proposals was circulated.

Don Murray indicated that the Sunshine Coast Regional District had sent a letter to Fred Wright, inquiry consultant regarding BC Ferries. Mayor of Sechelt, Bruce Milne also wrote a letter to Mr. Wright. These letters were circulated.

7.0 Communications

Committee members requested that meeting minutes be circulated to the school board, health board, local chambers of commerce, Downtown Business Association, Tourist Association, Commuter's Association, senior citizen's website, "The Loop" and Route 7 and 13 stakeholder committees. Jakob will provide contact information.

8.0 Issues Raised at October 15 and 16 Public Meetings

The committee discussed the following list of issues that arose at the public meetings:

On-time performance	Summer schedule	Chock blocks
Transit connections	Deeper discounts for pre-paid tickets	Vanpool parking at Horseshoe Bay
Maintenance of vessels	Late night service	Accurate information about status of vessel
Discount for students under 18 years of age	Free travel for school sponsored/sporting events	Improved amenities at Langdale terminal
Safe access for foot passengers to stairs/elevators	No shelter where foot passengers wait at Langdale terminal	Admin buildings not handicap accessible
Overloads	Encourage bicycles	Bike racks
Commuter tickets for bicycles	Foot passenger-only service	Hourly service/two vessels
15-passenger van charged bus rate	Improved handling of emergency situations	Safety drills on the run
Debit cards at toll booths	Upper deck for Berth 2 at Langdale	Violent video games
Shut off BCFC vehicle engines to avoid excessive exhaust	Ensure customers shut off engines to avoid excessive exhaust	Priority boarding for residents
Commuter representation on Ferry Advisory Committee	Sell commuter tickets on board vessel	Transit should pick-up/drop-off closer to berth at Langdale
ATM on board vessel	Lower motorcycle rates	Enforce handicap parking regulations in parking lots

BC Ferries will bring a status update of these issues to the next committee meeting.

In the discussion about commuter tickets and tariff, Don Murray made a motion for the Chair to write a letter to the president of BC Ferries stating that the committee feels the tariff is too high and the commuter ticket discount is too low and that the corporation should take immediate action. Motion was seconded by Angela Letman. Motion carried.

The committee requested financial information about BC Ferries and route reports so they can make informed decisions and recommendations.

9.0 Schedule

In establishing schedules, Captain Graham explained that BC Ferries takes into consideration historical data, traffic forecasts and operational budgets. In previous years, the corporation has not scheduled the extra ship, but used it as “manager’s discretion”. This allows BC Ferries to sail the extra ship when traffic warrants. When extra sailings are scheduled, the flexibility of using the extra ship when needed is greatly reduced. The current schedule works well in the fall, winter and spring, but the summer is of greatest concern to customers, as well as BC Ferries.

The corporation has always taken the view that the commuters desire a sailing at, or close to 6:20 a.m. from the Coast and 5:30 p.m. from Horseshoe Bay. In opening up the schedule in the summer time to accommodate the increased volume of traffic, sailing times would change. BC Ferries plans to use the Queen of Surrey and the Queen of Esquimalt for Summer 2002 and is looking at ways to make better use the Queen of Esquimalt next summer. BC Ferries will bring draft schedule proposals to the December meeting for the committee to review.

The committee expressed that on-time performance is one of the most important issues to the community and wants the service to improve.

10.0 Parking

BC Ferries will be increasing terminal parking rates by \$1.00 per day in January 2002. Parking rates at Langdale were implemented in 1996 and the rates of \$1.00 per 16-hours and \$1.00 for 17-24 hours (maximum fee of \$2.00 per day) were guaranteed for one year.

11.0 Dock Work at Langdale and Horseshoe Bay

From Monday, November 26, until Saturday, December 15, Berth One at Langdale will be closed to replace a large portion of the lower ramp deck, refurbish a wingwall, and change out the ramp’s counterweight cables. During this time, the Queen of Surrey will utilize Berth Two at Langdale Terminal.

