

Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) - Record of Meeting

Date:	May 16, 2018
Committee Name:	Gabriola Island
Route:	19

Attendees:

<p>For the FAC:</p> <p><i>Chair</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Earle <p><i>Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Ramsay, Paul O’Sullivan, Howard Houle • Heather O’Sullivan, Jane McCall-Woods • Peggy Richardson, Jim Ramsay 	<p>For BCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Wilson • Peter Simpson • David Hendry • Marina Lamb • John MacDonald • Lance Lomax • Darin Guenette
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Points of Agreement/Information:

1. Public comments. Jeremy Baker related his suggestion that a fixed link is a better idea than ferry service, and BC Ferries noted that the Province determines the type of service (ferries, bridges) that is to be delivered.
 Erik Andersen asked for all to remember that the people are the focus of ferry service when discussing all issues.
 Derek Kilbourn sought access to hang a banner at the Nanaimo terminal for a fundraiser.
2. BC Ferries overview. New ‘route reports’ have been sent to the FAC in advance to provide info/data on many operational issues, and asks for suggestions for change.
 An overview was given on the government review underway, fare discounts, the Performance Term 5 process, fuel costs rising, near record traffic levels and reservations/website changes upcoming. Some general discussion followed.
3. Medical priority loading. FAC suggests a procedures document is required to clarify what community members need to understand about this procedure at Descanso. BCF is ready to proceed with coordination of this procedure, and need to definitive list of which customers should be granted this priority loading. Peggy and John will settle this document ASAP.
4. Safe pedestrian/cycling access to Descanso. A presentation was provided to suggest initiatives to improve flow/safety of cyclers/walkers. Discussion followed.
5. Expansion of reinstated weekend afternoon sailings. The FAC suggests the weekend sailings that were added recently need to be implemented during longer shoulder seasons or year round. BC Ferries noted that the ‘gap’ in service on weekend days was created to protect the late-night sailings while saving costs, however, they will certainly analyse the potential for adding these sailings.

6. Quinsam replacement. Although the vessel is not due to be replaced until the late 2020's, BC Ferries is certainly analysing multiple options for how/when to replace the Quinsam on the route; this includes either one larger ferry (100 vehicle capacity) or two 47-vehicle ferries. Some discussion followed, but there was general interest/support from the FAC for the two-ferry concept.
7. Free/reduced youth travel. A community request looks to understand the criteria for reduced travel costs for youth participating in extra-curricular travel.
8. Ferry web cam. The decision has been made by the camera operator on Gabriola to not install on BC Ferries property, so the discussion is closed.
9. TDP update. BCF working at completing the current terminal development plans for both terminals within the next year, with implementation (ie. construction changes) to happen within the next four years.
10. FAC term and reappointment. The current FAC term ends December 31, so BC Ferries will be rebuilding all committees beginning later this summer/fall. A reminder that there is a two-term limit. If FAC members have ideas/suggestions for groups to include, please send to BCF.
11. Misc. Boarding passes. Terminal operations have recently begun issuing boarding passes, and discussion happened around some issues with this process.
Descanso parking enforcement. Signage has been installed to indicate maximum 24 hour parking, and BC Ferries is working at improving enforcement.

Action Items¹:

Item	Who	By When
1. Consider options for encouraging customers to move from vehicle usage to walk-on, including elimination of a bicycle fee.	Mark	End-summer
2. Determine communication doc/method to help clarify medical priority loading.	John/Peggy	Prior to summer
3. Discuss suggestions for safer cycle/pedestrian access changes with MOTI.	Mark	As required
4. Provide more definitive idea of Quinsam replacement plans.	Mark	No later than Fall meeting

¹ Significant Service Request (SSR) requiring detailed analysis and formal decisions from BCF should be submitted using the SSR process. Submission of a SSR should be noted as an Action Item.