

Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) Meeting

April 10, 6:00pm

2nd Floor Conference Room, Civic Bldg, Bellingham WA

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Cris Colburn called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Charles Bailey, Rhayma Blake, Cris Colburn, Jim Dickinson, Patricia Dunn, Judy Olsen

Excused: none

AWOL: none

Also in Attendance: Rich Hudson-Senior Master, Nancy Ging, Wynne Lee, Bill Lee, Roland Middleton, Todd Donovan, Randy Rydal, Cassandra Schoenmakers (kpff), Elizabeth (Liz) Kosa

FLAG SALUTE

OPEN SESSION

Bill Lee thanked LIFAC and Public Works for their efforts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

LIFAC INTERNAL BUSINESS

Chris Colburn will follow up with Wiztronics regarding the **ferry/WTA radio**.

Jim Dickenson stated that the **Fairhaven Shipyard bankruptcy** could be detrimental.

Liz K, our new WCPW Asset Manager was introduced and told us about her background, including the Merchant Marine Academy, extensive international marine experience, project management, and Washington Ferry system experience. Her vision, besides “parts and pieces” includes aligning processes, and employee lifecycle analysis. We are thrilled to have Liz on board.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Operations-Rich Hudson, Senior Master

1. **Crew** – The two new on-call crew members are Morgan Sherry and Annie Justice.
2. **Island Emergency Response** – The ferry and fire department are coordinating emergency communications through the IamResponding app. This is redundant to the current radio systems. The cost to ferry system is \$250 annually.
3. **2019 Dry Dock** – Tentative dates are Sept 7 – Sept 29. It WILL NOT be shorter. Three weeks are needed for dock work.

Ferry Procurement Update

Roland Middleton: It's time to start the conversation on ferry funding. Kpff is performing a funding analysis. Mr. Middleton reminded us that the County Council sets policy for Public Works to follow. LIFAC advises the County Council." Ferry funding will be far more political than the size of the ferry – it impacts everyone personally.

Several funding options are being examined by Public Works and their legal counsel. Some possibilities were discussed. More CRAB funding is available with a ferry district. Will the Council pass a county-wide ferry district? Will Lummi Island pass a limited area ferry district vote? Roland mentioned that King County's ferry district rate is .002% (about \$12/property). A surcharge is an option but everyone must be charged, not just summer cash fares. Another option is the state Public Works trust fund (no ferry district needed). LIFACs charge: How do we want to communicate these issue? Public meetings? How many? Surveys? Other? It looks likely that a ferry district will be in our future so a strategic communication plan will be needed.

Should fares be changed? We may want to change fares to mesh with automated ticketing. How does LIFAC want to participate in the design process? Pat Dunn moved, Charles 2nd, that LIFAC consider design elements, with options at the monthly meeting. These design decisions include things such as colors, seating, naming the boat, etc. Passed unanimously.

Cassandra introduced the topic of a financial strategy and the many ways to fund. (This segued into a discussion of dock design. Jim is concerned about a rigid design. Liz noted that an option is to have 1 fixed and 1 floating dolphin.) Cassandra needs to know what information the community needs. There will be a timeline at the May meeting.

Council member Donovan noted deadlines for the 2 potential ordinances are:

- Ferry District: January 2020 (geography, fees/tax)
- Fee Schedule: July 2020

It was noted that the application deadline for the next 4 year CRAB funding cycle is December 2021.

Roland provided a brief update on Lummi Nation issues. PW is working to be a stakeholder in the Lummi Nation marina plan, including the terminal. Initially the new boat will use the old dock as the new Gooseberry dock will take considerable time.

Any questions about the new ferry and dock issues should be sent to Roland who will forward to the appropriate party.

NEW BUSINESS

(none)

ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned about 8:00 PM.