

CAC MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Doris Brevoort, Louise Edens, Robin Gosney, Chris and Judy Jones, Dick Phillips, Valerie Rose, Dave Stevens, Cheryl Willis, and Brad Windler.

Our guest speaker, Jo Pemant, Paratransit Eligibility Specialist with Skagit Transit, was introduced. Our other guest was BJ Carol, CAC member applicant.

There were no public comments.

Chris Jones moved the February meeting minutes be approved as submitted, Louise Edens seconded, and the motion carried.

Guest speaker Jo Pemant then presented information on the new online scheduling portal for paratransit, an exciting new tool now available to Paratransit ridership who register. This is the same system used by paratransit schedulers, and clients have most of the features available. In addition, for those with e-mail addresses, one receives a "Paramail," reflecting any interaction with the online portal, to include notice of bus arrival. The presentation was met with much enthusiasm from committee members. Judy reports she has already used the portal, that is screen reader accessible to blind folks. She will be sending the portal link to CAC members after the meeting.

Next, CAC applicant BJ Carol gave a brief description of her work experience and interest statement in becoming a CAC member. It was moved and approved she be recommended to the Skagit Transit board for member approval.

Regarding fixed route frequency recommendations, Brad reviewed the top five recommended routes, according to ridership, for frequency increase recommendations in the upcoming strategic plan. The five routes were reviewed, and questions fielded. Brad will accept individual recommendations, and would like to have them, as the strategic plan development gets under way.

Doris is recommending needs assessments be done on a couple of the routes. For example, a possible micro transit run could work for those taking the ferry to meet the different bus routes in Anacortes. A second example is to add an extra later afternoon run on the 90X.

Valerie also mentioned an increase on runs for the 207 that services the Mt. Vernon YMCA, that may very well bring more ridership, especially among the youth.

Under staff reporting, ridership is increasing, up to 22.2 percent so far, and looking like 20 percent for the first half of March.

Island Transit will be experiencing service and route changes that may effect Skagit County travelers in the area, so Brad advises double-checking schedules before planning rides.

Cheryl reported there was a community event March 1 in Anacortes for vulnerable populations in the area, educating them on all things of interest to ridership.

There was nothing to report from the Transit Awareness Committee at this time.

During the Round Table session, as our new CEO was unable to attend, Judy took the opportunity to stress the need for raising the CAC profile through social media and marketing. As examples, she is recommending a static CAC recruitment banner on the Transit Facebook page, until all committee slots are filled. Continued member participant in appropriate transit marketing events is encouraged, and consistent recruitment press releases should be published.

She has also created a simple spreadsheet of members' general availability for the information table staffing at Skagit Station, as dates are available. This sheet will be sent to each member for review, and for any additions or corrections.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday April 11.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair