

CAC MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Doris Brevoort, Ray Bock, BJ Carol, Robin Gosney, Madeline Handzlik, Chris and Judy Jones, Daniel Kihangu, John Norman, Monette Partin, Dick Phillips, Valerie Rose, Dave Stevens, Cheryl Willis, and Rogelio Conejo-Castro.

Guest Ed Johnson made public comment, noting some observations regarding Skagit Transit.

BJ and Dave moved and Dick seconded the March meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Motion carried.

Robin led the discussion regarding Route 513 and the typically tight connections to other buses. She has had problems connecting to transfer to the 301. It is understood that ridership needs to inform drivers if needing to transfer. While drivers are very accommodating, not all ridership is aware of the tight schedule unless they are regular riders of this route. Discussion and possible solutions to be continued with the Liaison at our next meeting. Robin states that communication is the key.

Due to the inability of Skagit Transit to get the requested report information to Madeline Handzlik, her report is tabled until the May meeting.

A big thank-you goes to those members who are volunteering as greeters for the public meetings.

Next, Cheryl supplied us with detailed information to confirm the May 8 excursion on Route 615 to La Conner. We are to meet at Skagit Station at 10:30 AM, taking the 10:45 615 bus, and having lunch at the Santo Coyote Kitchen Eatery. From there, we will walk to the art museum to receive an overview of their programs, then return with the 615 by 2:05 PM. Cheryl was thanked for her efforts in planning this trip for us to experience the recent changes in the 615 route.

For the staff report, Cheryl noted that Interim Liaison Alan Brooks is currently at the Edison School open house public meeting.

Then she and Rojelio listed the youth events in March and April they are attending to promote Skagit Transit, including a street event in Concrete, a YMCA event, a high school/parent academy event, and an information fair in Concrete at the community center.

Monette asked if Skagit Transit will be in the Sedro-Woolley July 4 parade, and Cheryl confirmed in the affirmative, along with the county fair in August.

The committee expressed the need to promote Skagit Transit at more area festivals, and Cheryl confirms they have some first-time events lined up in future.

Members are also asked to let Cheryl know any time rider information is placed in a church or with a business, so Cheryl can follow up. It is also noted the importance of advertising to businesses and ridership, along with follow-up to both, are equally important.

Judy was thanked for helping Skagit Transit IT staff in testing various web pages for accessibility. She will be called upon as needed, and gives credit to the great job the IT staff is doing to bring overall improvement to the transit site.

Doris put forth an excellent idea to produce a single-page graphic to give to each business, showing the bus stop accessed by that business.

When asked, Cheryl stated the rider survey number results should be available by May's meeting for discussion.

One recommendation brought to the committee's attention is to please adjust bus reader boards to have larger high-contrast print, and longer intervals before display changes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting, May 14.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair