

CAC MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Ray Bock, Doris Brevoort, BJ Carol, Robin Gosney, Madeline Handzlik, Chris and Judy Jones, Daniel Kihangu, John Norman, Monette Partin, Valerie Rose, Dave Stevens, Cheryl Willis, and Stevie Mathews.

Joe Kunzler joined as a public commenter, requesting a bus stop be placed at Crosswind Drive and Higgins Airport Way, to access the Flight Museum. He is also asking for route 513 service on Saturdays, and reiterates the long-standing need for overall extended service hours.

A motion was brought forward by Chris to approve the May minutes, seconded by BJ and Dave. Motion carried.

Our new CAC Liaison Stevie Mathews, was officially welcomed at her first official CAC meeting in her position as Planning And Outreach Supervisor.

Next, new CAC applicant Irene Prokuski gave an overview of her extensive involvement with and passion for mass transit, and it was voted unanimously that she be recommended to the board for membership. Note that the June Board Of Directors meeting has been moved to Thursday, June 20 instead of the usual third Wednesday of the month. See Skagit Transit's online calendar for more details.

CAC Member Umo Pass Follow-Up: Valerie is working with Cheryl to resolve the issue of the WTA connector coaches' inability to process the regional pass. Valerie reports she will further test the system, once she is able to board a WTA coach. While the passes work regionally on the 80X Skagit Transit coaches, a software glitch is suspected on the Whatcom Transit coaches. Otherwise, Cheryl reports that, indeed, the CAC member pass is good for 40X, 80X, and 90X connectors.

In Stevie's first staff report to the committee, she states she will be ready to give the ridership report in July, once she has all the information available to her. Meanwhile, members are welcome to request the June report individually.

Regarding the long-range plan, Stevie is asking the consultants to give more exacting information, by drilling down and extracting the raw data. It is not prudent to make such large-scale decisions on long-term planning with minimal feedback and without more comprehensive information. A thorough understanding is needed, in order to change the system so that it is more beneficial to those using it, and more understandable to those who do not yet know how to access it.

Better direct access with fewer transfers, is the overall goal. She is waiting for more analyses, and internally will do more outreach over the summer for different demographics where no feedback was obtained, crucial to devising system changes.

Judy will be appointing a committee member to work with Stevie on any anonymous customer feedback coming into Skagit Transit that can be brought to the CAC for further review and recommendation. It is hoped this move will help spotlight those community requests and suggestions needing attention.

Cheryl reported that she and CEO Crystle Stidham presented the Skagit Transit long-range plan to the county commissioners at their May 20th meeting, with positive results and much interest. They will also assist in getting additional community feedback.

Community Engagement Coordinator Rogelio Conejo-Castro, who attended the meeting, noted the May and June festivals, in which Skagit Transit takes part. The Berry Dairy Days is the next one to come, starting June 14.

During the round table session, Stevie gave more details on what brought her to Skagit County, and described the scope of services at her former transit agency employer.

Judy and Monette asked about the possibility of somehow partnering with Snohomish County's Community Transit to enhance transit services between the two counties.

With no further business, it was moved and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair