

**SKAGIT TRANSIT  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 12, 2015 5:00 p.m.  
Skagit Station Conference Room  
Mount Vernon, WA

Caroline Nazareno called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**Committee Members**

Caroline Nazareno  
Joy Kane  
Doris Brevoort  
Dick Phillips  
Oliver Berentson  
Noelle Eschete  
Lynne Jordan

**Skagit Transit**

Carolyn Chase

**Members of the Public**

None

**I. Approval of minutes:**

Oliver Berentson made a motion to approve minutes from the December 2014 and January 2015 meetings. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. Public Comment:**

Caroline Nazareno inquired about the Route 207 stop on Austin Lane and whether any decision had been made about servicing the stop. Staff reported that the stop is being evaluating because of concerns raised by neighbors about the frequency of bus traffic on Austin Lane. No service changes are currently proposed.

Caroline reported on a conversation she had with a SVC student who described how difficult the 40X schedule was for him. It gets him to school much earlier than he needs to arrive and he is leaving later than he would otherwise need to.

This same student reported that with regards to campus sustainability, SVC has not been successful in reducing the number of students that drive to campus.

Lynne Jordan observed a passenger with a grocery cart that was unable to board the bus and inquired about policy regarding carts. It was discussed that securing carts is Skagit Transit policy for safety reasons.

The group discusses bicycle parking at March's Point. There was general interest in getting covered parking at March's Point. A grant was submitted to get bicycle lockers for the site, but the success of the grant was unknown at the time of the meeting. It was discussed that the parking lot is largely unused and that there would be plenty of space for bicycle parking near the transit island.

**III. Notes from the Field**

Staff reported that Skagit Transit was unsuccessful in winning a grant to begin operations of the feeder routes in Sedro Woolley and Burlington. Staff is still exploring lower cost options that would improve service.

The group discussed options for generating revenue including advertising on buses. This had been rejected by the Board of Directors in the past but it is unclear if this would still be an unfavorable way to generate revenue or not.

Doris Brevoort inquired about the time buses spend stuck at rail crossings waiting for passing trains. Staff didn't have any data on this. Doris suggested that this information be collected with drivers calling in the incident and Dispatch recording it.

Carolyn reported on the 80X fare coordination and said that ridership on the 80X was down in January. The CAC requested information on any change to revenue on the route.

Noelle Eschete showed the group a wallet sized fold out transit map created for the Intercity Transit system in Olympia. The group thought it was a great idea.

#### **IV. New Member Elections**

A motion was made by Oliver Berentson to approve the appointment of Lynne Jordan to the CAC. The motion was seconded by Caroline Nazareno and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the appointment of Noelle Eschete to the CAC was made by Joy Kane. The motion was seconded by Caroline Nazareno and approved unanimously.

#### **V. Community Events**

The group discussed a concern about the only fare free days coinciding with homelessness events and thought that it may be a good idea to coordinate a fare free day that coincides with a community event or national appreciation day. Ideas for dates of fare free days were as follows:

- Opening day of the Tulip Festival
- Earth Day
- Opening day of the Mount Vernon Street Fair
- Dump the Pump Day, June 18

The group decided to send a formal request for a fare free day coinciding with the opening day of the Mount Vernon Street Fair, Friday, April 17th. This would have to go to the Board in March for approval.

Other ideas that came out of the conversation about Skagit Transit's support of community events were:

- Better utilizing park and ride facilities during events
- Promotion Skagit Transit by piggy backing on annual events rather than planning our own events
- Holding a transportation/transit appreciation day that local officials would be invited to. Possibly a potluck at Skagit Station.

#### **VI. Social Media**

The group discussed using social media and specifically Twitter to promote Skagit Transit. Members would do it as individuals and not on the behalf of Skagit Transit. Skagit Transit would then decide to re-tweet postings on a case-by-case basis. The same hashtag would be used.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Caroline Nazareno, Chair

Skagit Transit Citizens' Advisory Committee

Attest:

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Carolyn Chase  
Transit Planner