

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

Thursday, March 14, 2013 5:00 p.m.
Skagit Station Conference Room
Mount Vernon, WA

Susan Pole called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members

Frank Damp
Don Downing
Susan Pole
Valerie Rose
Tom Taylor
Bill Myers
Dick Phillips
Patricia Miranda
KB Johnson

Skagit Transit

Troy Fair
Mary Lozeau
Dale O'Brien
Dennis Digges

Members of the Public

Jeff Reynolds
Louise Edens
Craig Edens
Eddie Pole
Joy Kane
Dave Stevens

I. Public Comment:

Don Downing stated he has heard concerns from other Dial-a-Ride customers about the Skagit Station drop off location move to the bus pad. Troy Fair explained the stop was moved back to the bus pad at Skagit Station for safety reasons.

Jeff Reynolds from the Reach Center in Mount Vernon asked the committee when surveys will be conducted. Jeff informed the committee he is aware of riders who can use transit services to get to their destinations during the day and are unable to get home since bus service stops at 8:30 p.m. Jeff noted he and many Reach Center clients would like to give input on service needs.

Dave Stevens asked if the 305 bus could travel in front of Haggen's. Dale O'Brien stated staff is currently working on revising Route 305.

Dave stated he occasionally rides Route 300 and suggested the Tues 4:25 p.m. bus should be an express bus because it is always full. Dave stated the Job Corp riders want day passes and block other riders from boarding the bus. There needs to be a quicker ways of loading the riders and purchasing day passes.

II. Approval of minutes:

Don Downing moved to approve the minutes. Frank Damp seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Information Items:

Notes from the field:

Valerie Rose stated she rides the 80X from Bellingham. Valerie explained she used to be able to show her CAC pass both ways and ride free and recently that has changed. Dale O'Brien stated he would contact Whatcom Transit and make arrangements for the CAC to ride the 80X with their CAC identification.

General Update:

Dale O'Brien informed the committee that bids are re-opened for the Skagit Station deli remodel project and the Alger Park & Ride bids will open in two weeks. Dale stated staff is working with Skagit County and Northwest Air Pollution to install an electric charging station at the South Mount Vernon Park & Ride. Dale reported Skagit Transit has a contingency plan to keep the 90X bus running if it is not included in the transportation bill. Dale stated the 80X will continue to receive funding from the transportation bill. Dale reported the new website went live today and invited the committee members to visit the new website. Dale thanked Dennis Digges for his work getting the website completed. Dale noted we are finding a few items that need corrections and if anyone discovers items to be corrected please let us know.

IV. Unfinished Business:

Susan Pole informed the committee she visited the community action office to see what information they have for Skagit Transit. She learned they do have plenty of transit information and when they need more they are able to order more via the phone.

Louise Edens informed the committee she had coffee with the Mayor of Mount Vernon. Louise stated the Mayor is a huge supporter of Skagit Transit and is open to partnering. Louise stated they discussed utilizing the City's utility bill to communicate and educate on the benefits of Skagit Transit. Louise suggested this might be a way to distribute surveys in the Mount Vernon area.

Louise stated she attended a meeting with the Library Foundation and they discussed using Skagit Transit and volunteers to courier books and other Library information.

Susan Pole talked about medical transportation being available for people on Medicaid. They can get bus passes for doctor appointments and if they have multiple appointments they can get a monthly pass. Susan noted she also learned from the Medicaid Transportation Program, that people in mental health and drug and alcohol programs are not included in the transportation program. Susan said she contacted the Community Service office in Bellingham and learned they work with Whatcom Transit Authority and receive 3,000 bus passes per year. They apply for up to 50,000 free passes issued in a grant program run by Whatcom Transit Authority. Susan inquired if Skagit Transit has a similar program and, if not, is there a potential to do this. Dale O'Brien answered staff can seek direction from the Board on this topic.

Joy Kane from the Kidney Center stated their patients have been told they are only approved to use Dial-a-Ride to and from the Kidney Center. Joy noted this is in conflict with the website information. Dale O'Brien suggested staff schedule a meeting with the Kidney Center to discuss their concerns.

Susan Pole broke up the committee into two workgroups to discuss public education and survey questions.

V. New Business:

Tom Taylor stated he has created bus route revisions for Route 300 and Route 513 using the same timeframe currently in place.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Susan Pole, Chair
Skagit Transit Citizens' Advisory Committee

Attest:

Mary Lozeau
Clerk of the Citizens' Advisory Committee