

DRAFT MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chris Jones, Special Projects Assistant. (Chair was unable to reach Vice-Chair Doris Brevoort in time to take the meeting).

Members Present: Doris Brevoort, Louise Edens, Robin Gosney, Chris and Judy Jones, John Norman, Dave Stevens, and Brad Windler.

Guest Speakers: Jennifer Davidson and Abby Bissell from Skagit Transit's HR Department.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Dave Stevens, seconded by Robin Gosney the January minutes be accepted as submitted. Motion carried.

We were pleased to have Jennifer Davidson and Abby Bissell from Human Resources join us as guest speakers. They spoke of their many accomplishments and projects during 2022, to include introduction of a micro market to provide healthy choice sustenance for employees throughout the day, ratification of driver contract, updating of employee recognition program, the introduction of PERS for employees, and more.

In 2023 they will be attending job fairs, supporting the health and wellness programs overseen by Abby Bissell, enhancing and improving employee benefit programs, updating job descriptions, and promoting employee involvement in public events.

They also announced the new CEO, Krystle Stidham-Tinges, will be starting March 1.

A wellness fair is anticipated September 20, 2023, at the County Shop Lane facilities, and all are cordially invited to attend. More information to come.

There was much positive feedback regarding the two CAC information table events the last two weeks of January. Other volunteers stepped forward for February, and Brad will be getting back to us with possible dates and times.

As the candidate for CAC membership was not able to be present at this meeting, this discussion will be tabled for March.

A Stuff The Bus Food Drive will be held February 25 in Burlington, at the corner of Burlington Boulevard and Fairhaven Avenue, in the Auto Zone parking lot. Robin volunteered to help out that day, and Cheryl will be getting back with her regarding details.

Doris recommended sending out small thank-you notices to those who donated, along with a fill-in receipt for tax purposes.

There is going to be a new paratransit online booking system, currently going through soft launch phase, and will be officially launched some time in March. This will allow clients to book, change, and cancel rides themselves, and will be especially convenient for facilities who book multiple rides for their clients.

The list of service changes was mentioned again in an overview, to include the introduction of route 101 in Burlington, and earlier service from Anacortes, allowing those passengers access to both 80X and 90X morning runs. These changes, taking place as of May.

In the fall, a new bus will be added, and the route 513 will become hourly. The 615 route will run every two hours.

Next, Brad asked the CAC for recommendations of fixed routes in most need of frequency increase. Some recommended later service, and asked Brad to make sure, in the Sedro-Woolley area, the paratransit beginning and ending times mirror the fixed route as closely as possible, in hopes that paratransit passengers might enjoy slightly later final pickup times in the evenings.

Doris recommends a service needs assessment be done for the Hillcrest Park area that is seeing increased use, but no bus service.

John is recommending more service in Anacortes, and Brad says this is in the radar for service planning. One insight Brad gave us is that typically, when people relocate, they do not take into account the transit service areas of a locale, then proceed to express needs for service when they have none, after having moved.

Doris also recommends the Co-op be contacted for a service needs assessment.

Doris, representing our Needs Awareness Committee, reports a great combination of county bus and light rail connections, which resulted in smooth traveling to Mount Vernon at the end of her day.

For Round Table, Robin had a general question about the automated trip calling system that Brad was able to answer.

He then announced that Skagit Transit is applying for a grant to fund a micro transit program, with the application due date of March 10. The agency does have on-call consultants that can help tailor such a program to meet our county's particular needs and budget. Part of this process is studying other counties' micro transit business models, in order not to "re-invent the wheel."

With no further discussion, it was moved and seconded the meeting adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Jones

CAC Chair