

MINUTES

September 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members Present: Doris Brevoort, Louise Edens, Robin Gosney, Chris and Judy Jones, Dick Phillips, Valerie Rose, David Stevens, Cheryl Willis, and Brad Windler.

Joe Kunzler was a guest, and also made public comment, expressing hope for more shuttle service to public events, and hopes that CAC might have input into the hiring selection of the future Skagit Transit Executive Director.

Louise related a question she had been asked, as to why transit services are not free. Brad explained that traditionally, free services can be misused and abused by those not necessarily needing those services, plus, when the agency asks for further funding, they are asked if the county ridership is participating in the service through paying a fare. Dick Phillips also stated he has seen this abuse trend with other transit authorities offering free service.

The August meeting minutes are approved as corrected, the error being new service change date implementation of August 29, instead of September 29.

As our most recent CAC member applicant, John Norman, was not present at this meeting, voting is tabled.

Cheryl then went over September 22's schedule for the trip to Concrete. Please refer to the event description sent out earlier.

Brad then reviewed the upcoming Skagit/Island transit service changes coming September 26, which will eliminate the mid-day service break in western Skagit County. Because of this, there will be a slight change in 40 X departure times from Skagit Station.

He also advised that anyone traveling with WTA review the schedule, as there have been changes, due to driver shortages.

The annual reminder was given to all CAC members that CAC membership is not to be used to influence officials, and Judy added that we are not to represent ourselves as policy makers.

Dave asked about bus stop signs he has noticed denoting the slight change on route 207. Brad explained the change and the newer signage now being used.

Brad reports that ridership has increased anywhere from two to four point five percent, with a big jump in youth ridership in July and August.

Cheryl reports that both the August Stuff The Bus diaper drive and Senior Day events were a success, with 11160 diapers/dollars having been donated, and approximately 250 seniors attending the park event..

There is also a September 19 WWU/Skagit Transit event, where a bus will be available for students to tour, with accompanying schedules and literature encouraging ridership. Various members made suggestions to use the time to also recruit for CAC members, and also drivers.

For the Committee Awareness report, all experiences with connectors are positive.

During the round table session, a question was asked concerning the Umo monthly pass versus the 31-day pass. The Umo 31-day pass is not based on the calendar 31-day increment, whereas the monthly pass is based on the calendar month.

It was recommended that the Umo system alert holders of the 31-day pass when it comes close to the time their accounts are low on funds, and Brad stated he would follow up on this suggestion.

Louise made mention of the new library in LaConner, and plans to use that venue to help educate area residents regarding transit services. Members agree that would be a great place to promote ridership in that area of Skagit County. It was noted here also that several forms of publicity continue to be necessary for promoting Skagit Transit countywide.

With no further business, it was then moved and approved the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Jones
Special Projects Assistant