

DRAFT MINUTES

December 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Jones.

Members present: Doris Brevoort, Robin Gosney, Chris Jones, Judy Jones, John Norman, Dick Phillips, Valerie Rose, Brad Windler, and Cheryl Willis.

Today's public comments were presented by Joe Kunzler, who had a question regarding how the Chair interacts with the Skagit Transit Board. He also recommends Skagit Transit offer some kind of riderware, such as t-shirts, caps, etc.

Our guest today was CEO candidate Crystle Stidham-Tinges, currently holding a leadership position with the Fresno transit authority. She fielded several questions asked by CAC members, to include the micro transit concept, advertising transit service to increase ridership, commuter bus efficiency, zero-emissions technology, and bus fare percentages. It is noted that she has experience in the development and operation of the micro transit component of Sacramento's transit authority, and is in process of developing similar for the Fresno area. She also addressed questions pertaining to zero emission technology, and we are all aware this is coming to Washington state. Other questions answered depend on the transit authority and region of service.

Judy gave a brief description of last week's public reception held by Skagit Transit for the three CEO position candidates, and thanked Skagit Transit for such a stellar event.

Judy also reported on last month's board meeting, highlighting the board approval of the agency employees salary upgrades. It was moved by Chris and seconded by Valerie that the CAC applaud the board of directors for implementing the salary increases. Motion carried, and will be expressed to the board at the next meeting as a matter of record.

On November 17, CAC member Dick Phillips and Marketing Director Cheryl Willis presented at the Salem group apartment residents, as transit service is now available in the area. Dick also had opportunity to recruit for the CAC, and Cheryl has received one inquiry.

On December 28 at 1 PM, CAC member Louise Eden, along with Skagit Transit, will host an event for kids in a section of the children's library, with information on how to ride transit buses. This community event information is already being distributed through the district and by the library itself.

The first scenario training for CAC volunteers took place December 6 at Skagit Station, and was informative and a success, according to those who attended. Judy encourages all members to attend any subsequent trainings that give members the tools, venue, and ability to competently answer basic ridership questions, recruit for the CAC, and work in conjunction with the agency's Customer Service department.

Under staff reporting, the board officially recognizes John Norman as the newest CAC member, and the CAC slate of officers for 2023.

In keeping with the season, snow routes and maps will be posted on the transit web site and in social media, and can also be accessed through the Umo app.

Skagit Transit will be closed for Christmas and New Year's, and, as each occurs on a Sunday, the business offices will be closed the following Mondays, although service will be running.

Brad also reports that there is an increase in transit job applications, and they are hoping for an incoming class of ten drivers for early 2023.

During the Round Table session, John expressed the fact that this is the first transit authority he has seen that takes seriously the ridership and employee needs alike.

One idea from Doris concerning commuter bus service, is for Skagit Transit to conduct a needs assessment survey on what is currently working for commuters, and future adjustments that would make commuter services more effective and efficient. As an example, the service cuts to the 206 route she is experiencing are problematic.

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

Next meeting, January 10, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Jones

Special Projects Assistant