

Skagit Transit Community Advisory Committee
May 11, 2021 **DRAFT V1** Minutes

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Members in Attendance

Chair Judy Jones

Vice Chair Chris Jones

Special Projects Assistant Joe A. Kunzler

Doris Brevoort

Valerie Rose

Dick Phillips

Robyn Gosney

Anthony Whitesides

Staff

Planning and Outreach Supervisor Brad Windler

Marketing & Public Affairs Specialist Cheryl Willis

Guests

None

The meeting began at 4:35 PM.

Roll was called by Cheryl Willis.

No public comment was offered after several prompts by the Chair.

Chair Judy then asked the group to celebrate birthdays in the month. No birthdays this month.

Joe A. Kunzler then kicked off the by-laws discussion. Joe explained that he wanted a '25th Amendment' in the by-laws so the members can remove an officer for any reason however necessary. Also an officer can ask for suspension for service for any reason. Scenarios discussed included a pregnancy, a PTSD eruption or a Chair abusing the position. Joe then had to explain to his colleagues that this proposed amendment was about demoting officers and not about removing CAC members.

Brad Windler chimed in saying that as to officers having health issues, it would be better to wordsmith the matter as a leave of absence versus a suspension.

Furthermore, Brad wanted clarity this was about demoting officers rather than removing CAC members.

Joe then said that for instance he wanted a tool to hold officers accountable short of 'voting them off the island'. Chair Judy then wanted clarification about requested leaves of absence versus officers being demoted by a CAC vote.

Vice Chair Chris wanted a more thoughtful approach taken to leaves of absence complete with some confidentiality so there was a process with dignity where an officer could self-demote. Brad then chimed in that Joe was dealing with two different situations – an officer has a behavior issue & needs to be removed but also a CAC officer has something going on in their life & needs a leave of absence.

Joe then made clear that he likes the idea of if we have someone promoted but they cannot handle being an officer because for instance they miss the basics of being chair there needs to be an option to demote that Chair without removing them from the committee. After a question from Chair Judy, Joe said this is not just about the national political scene showing a need for a 25th Amendment but also some of the things he's learned from Ann McFarlane's Jurassic Parliament. One of them is that the Chair has to be a servant.

Joe also said he wanted to say the CAC needs to think about giving officers a leave of absence if other duties in their life. This way the door is open to a member serving as officer in the interim.

Robyn Gosney then chimed in about wanting two different approaches to these issues. Chair Judy though said she understood the issue as allowing officers requested leaves of absence if they cannot fulfill the duties of their office, or if they are not able to handle their office properly and needing accommodations. Joe said that was close enough and noted the time of 4:59 PM.

Joe then suggested a different means of electing CAC officers. However, since it was clearly communicated from different CAC members that the CAC members did not support changing in any way the means seeking privacy from candidates when voting Joe withdrew his suggestions.

Chair Judy closed out the discussion by making clear she wanted it to be bylaws and not by-laws in this current reform. Chair Judy then wanted to move over to discussing the new kiosk for Chuckanut Park & Ride.

Brad then noted that Chuckanut Park & Ride in Burlington is getting a new touchscreen kiosk. However, Chuckanut's WiFi problems are holding back the full functionality of the kiosk to do route planning and show fares.

The next topic was Cheryl Willis bringing up the upcoming pet food drive, partnering with a 4-H club and Skagit Leadership. First time but an attempt to help our four-legged friends.

Brad then on the partnership theme brought up the Skagit Transit partnership with YMCA. The partnership is to put a crosswalk at the bus stops for the low income folks needing access to the camps and pool. The crosswalk will go behind the bus stops for safety and the YMCA will help promote transit use not just for youth but seniors who need exercise. The City Government of Mount Vernon is also a partner designing a new intersection. Valerie spoke to the increased safety from the improvements and the removal of the need for a crossing guard.

Then Chair Judy moved the CAC onto the subject of creating a subcommittee for regional connectivity. Chair Judy appointed Joe, Valerie and Doris to the subcommittee. Joe brought up the need to monitor transit developments in Snohomish County like Everett Transit's ReThink Transit and Community Transit's Long Range Plan. Doris also brought up the bus restructuring for Northgate Link.

However Brad brought up the desire to hold off on changing the 90X due to concerns over returning ridership. The thinking is that some local routes like the 207 will have increased frequency from 60 minutes to 30 minutes as a result of ridership, but how the world of work is changing is unknown and that will drive 90X ridership.

The CAC then pivoted to discussing when to have its first hybrid meeting with in-person and remote components. Since transit service is limited until June 15th, that discussion was tabled until the next CAC meeting.

Chair Judy then pivoted to roundtable. Chair Judy then brought up the need for a statewide Community Advisory Committee virtual get-together. Chair Judy sought volunteers to help stand up the get together.

Joe brought up the Skagit Transit Board's April discussion and vote about potentially rejecting federal funds for the Maintenance-Operations-Administration (MOA) facility. Joe wanted to speak but was asked not to by the Board Chair and Joe stood down to keep the CAC from looking bad. Chair Judy used the opportunity to get CAC members to attend Board meetings virtually. Then there was a CAC discussion about the finances of getting the MOA built and attempting to use the most ethical vehicle to get the facility funded.

Chair Judy then decided to conclude about noting some of the Board members do not always read their Board Agenda packets. So Chair Judy will start asking the Board members if they have questions about the CAC submission.

Due to a lack of a quorum sometime during roundtable, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted and Approved on ___ June 2021,

Joe A. Kunzler
Special Projects Manager