

PLIC General Meeting

May 29, 2012

The Grange Hall, Lummi Island, WA

In attendance: Approximately 11 members and board members: Michael McKenzie, Dave Wing, Stu Clark, Mike Kmiecik, and Rhayma Blake

President Mike McKenzie called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

McKenzie presented an **overview of the initial Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee's** first meeting on May 21st. McKenzie is Committee Chairman, Stu Clark - Vice-Chairman, Greg Brown - Secretary, and Josh Zender - Treasurer. Most meetings will be held on island. The County Council has commented that islanders should start directing comments to LIFAC and not necessarily to the County Council for increased efficiency. The committee's first priorities will be a recommendation on:

1. Electronic Ticketing and credit card scanning
2. The ferry's 2013 budget, due June 30th

McKenzie reported that **Public Works has been asked to cut \$250,000 from its overall 2013 budget**. Revenues are projected to increase 1% while expenditures increase 4% next year in the \$2.8 MM ferry budget. Public Works Director Frank Abart is reported to say he is open to expense reductions outside of service cuts, however personnel is a large part of the budget and an easy target. McKenzie noted that special needs based fares are also vulnerable.

Bill Lee warned that in this economy, the county is predictably **risk averse**. **"What if we cut fares for 6 months with the promise to make up any resulting deficit?"**

As fares increase and there continues to be the possibility of further increases, islanders are leaving and visitors are decreasing. Bud Jewell reminded the group that traffic and revenues increased in 1988 when fares were reduced. McKenzie suggested that we **document the exodus of residents since the \$3 fare increase** in January 2011 and share that information with the county. Janet Lutz-Smith suggested lowering fares during the summer to increase ridership during the peak season.

The question was raised whether PLIC had **tracked overall Public Works time allocated to the ferry**. Although Abart's time has decreased, has that resulted in an increase in staff time being allocated to the ferry?

Mike Skehan suggested that LICA and PLIC lend financial support to LIFAC, just as they did to the Ferry Task Force. He also asked whether he should take his ferry comments and **questions to PLIC or LIFAC?** Janet added that the organizations seem redundant. Stu Clark clarified that LIFAC is a county organization while PLIC is island organization. Since there is a significant duplication of those attending the meetings of the two organizations, it will take time to more clearly differentiate their roles and responsibilities.

Rhayma Blake provided an update on **reducing security costs at Gooseberry Point**. The contract for security services with Lummi Nation expires July 31st and has a one-year renewal option, which is currently under negotiation. Public Works is aware of PLIC's position that only dusk to the close-of-ferry operations security should be in place.

Dave Wing presented a **dry dock parking update**. Passenger boat ferry service will remain at Gooseberry Point even during construction at the dock. It has been confirmed that there will be only 100-110 parking spaces at Gooseberry Point, about half of those available last year and one-third of those available in 2010. McKenzie commented that the county has no legal obligation to provide parking. Janet shared that Maine has paid parking lots as part of its transportation plan. Dave offered to coordinate island-wide efforts to address the situation. Suggestions to address the dry dock parking issue included:

1. Contact LIBC to use the fenced lot, leasing spaces to individuals.
2. Contract with Eagle Haven RV Park.
3. Contract to use the Lummi Nation shuttle bus to remote parking locations.
4. Work with Willows Inn and how they plan to handle guest transportation.
5. Lease a van on the mainland with volunteer shuttle drivers.
6. Contact WTA for increased service (county has opted not to).
7. Rideshare. Mike Skehan suggested people post a travel "event" on Next door.

Steve Thomas and Lyn Milliken will help. Other island input is sought. Communications are key to increasing island awareness of the upcoming parking shortage. June 15th is the next Tome deadline.

Mike Skehan asked if PLIC could **request a blueprint of the new sidewalks** planned near the ferry dock to confirm whether new curbs will impact parking at Gooseberry Point.

Mike Kmiecik reported that PLIC currently has \$4,428.63.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhayma Blake
Acting Secretary