

BOWEN ISLAND MUNICIPALITY

Adopted on April 1, 2009

Minutes of the regular meeting of **Bowen Island Municipal Ferry Advisory Committee** held Wednesday March 4, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Municipal Hall, 981 Artisan Lane, Bowen Island, BC

COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Lalonde – Chair
Trish Jaquet
Daniel Heald

REGRETS

Kim DeSante
Doug Elliott

COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Alison Morse

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Biddlecombe & Leanne Laudrum, Cormorant Marine
Jacqueline Massey
Tim Rhodes
Gayle Ferguson – Minute Taker

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Adoption of March 4, 2009 Agenda for the meeting of the Bowen Island Municipality Ferry Advisory Committee

It was Moved and Seconded

That the agenda for the March 4, 2009 Bowen Island Municipality Ferry Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as amended and that 'Information' and 'On-Table Items' be monthly agenda items.

Amendment was the addition to 'New Business' items: 'sale of paper tickets, use of Experience Card, car pooling'; 'overload status re marshalling'; 'fare increases'; and 'priority commercial loading'.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Adoption of the Minutes for the meeting held February 2, 2009 of the Bowen Island Municipality Ferry Advisory Committee

It was Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of the Bowen Island Municipality Ferry Advisory Committee meeting held February 5, 2009 be adopted

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 3.1 New Members The Chair reported that the new member to the Committee, Kim DeSante had been approved by Council
- 3.2 Meeting with Water Taxi and passenger ferry operators The Chair noted that the operators of the two water taxi services had sent their regrets. The meeting with water taxi operators was to indicate the role of BIMFAC.
- BIMFAC was established by Municipal Bylaw as an operational committee, and that the Committee is also the official BC Ferry Advisory Committee;
 - Committee's function is to deal with marine transportation and be a liaison to BC Ferries and other marine transportation providers.
- Brian Biddlecombe noted that Cormorant Marine had been offering its service for 30 years, mainly focused on providing emergency ambulance service. Late night service was the most objectionable and number of passengers travelling from Horseshoe Bay had decreased.
- Key comments/queries from Committee members included:
- Have you thought of doing a morning run for commuters to Horseshoe Bay? *Brian has thought about afternoon runs from horseshoe Bay, but not sure the demand is there;*
 - When BC Ferries does not run, what is the process? *Brian usually gets a phone call. BC ferries have to make the request and I call Chris and Peter King. Process is not formalized, but it works. If BC Ferries knew vessel was down in July, they were still selling fares to tourists when they should have been selling to local people in these circumstances with limited capacity.*
 - The chair agreed to discuss with BC Ferries the issue of limited capacity and selling fares to locals first;
 - Passenger Service suggestion – BC Ferries to have someone at top of the ramp to tell them they need to get a ticket
- 3.3 Experience Card Failure Rate The Chair reported BC Ferries had indicated that there does not appear to be an extraordinary failure rate related to the Experience Card.

- 3.4 Experience Card Auto Reload Issue
The Chair reported that BC Ferries had begun the recovery process for charges not being processed against credit cards and BC Ferries would be willing to discuss alternative methods of payment.
- 3.5 Ferry Status sign
The Chair reported that BC Ferries are having problems with the use of the crane and Hydro lines in the installation of the ferry sign. The sign will only be active for late sailings or sailings cancelled.
- 3.6 Transport Canada mandatory crew changes and certification inspection
The Chair reported on the following:
- Transport Canada – Queen of Capilano does not require additional ‘manning’
 - The issue is not near resolution regarding the costs pooled for all the major routes. Appears it is minimal and not imminent;
 - Chairs of FAC committees are meeting to discuss solutions – add personnel or reduce capacity are possible solutions;
 - The Memo from BC Ferries to FAC Chairs regarding minimum safe manning will be added to the next Committee meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 Queen of Capilano refit
The Committee discussed the following issues related to periods when the Queen of Capilano is not in service:
- Notification to users – BC Ferries knew about refit two months prior, but only provided notice to users of the refit two days prior;
 - Annual Certification Inspections by Transport Canada
 - Suggestion to have BC Ferries organize with Transport Canada in order to have inspection and refit done during same period, preferably in off hours
- The Chair noted the above items would be discussed with BC Ferries
- Sale of paper tickets, use of experience card, card pooling
The Chair reported on the following issues regarding the sale of paper tickets and the use of Experience Card:
- BC Ferries notice March 2, 2009 -paper tickets to be discontinued as of June 2009, cannot be used for fares;
 - Prepaid tickets accepted prior to March 2008 valued at the 2008 March price;
 - Chair to request BC Ferries to put the notices in the

local papers;

- Use of Experience card on all routes within a few weeks;

Card Pooling – primary card holders will now have an option to share the balance with a secondary card holder by setting the auto reload feature.

Overload status re marshalling

In response to the Chair`s query regarding a decision on ferry marshalling, Councillor Morse noted that Council had agreed on four strategic priorities for capital planning - Civic Facilities, Snug Cove, Ferry Marshalling/Roads and the Fire Hall. Critical paths need to be developed for all four priorities.

Fare Increases

The Chair commented on a notice from BC Ferries regarding fare increases as follows:

- News Release states fare increase as 7.5%, but looks like 8.5%;
- New fares to be posted to BC Ferries website week of March 9, 2009;
- FACC has been meeting continually with Provincial Minister.

The Chair agrees to request BC Ferries to provide a clearer memo on fare increase with rationale

Priority Commercial Loading

Daniel suggested that island based trucking companies have priority loading.

The Committee agreed to defer discussion of the issue to the April 1, 2009 meeting.

NEXT MEETING

7:15 pm, April 1, 2009

6.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.