

Anderson Island Citizens' Advisory Board

Date, time and location of the meeting:

October 13 2006 19:30 PST (7:30 p.m.)

Time meeting was called to order:

19:34 PDT (7:34 p.m.)

AICAB members present, and name/title of guest speakers:

Listed in order by seating position from CAB members' left to right:

- Randy Anderson [RA]
- Jim Singer [JS] – Treasurer
- Anthony Tognazzini [AT]
- Chuck Hinds [CH]
- David McGoldrick [DMc]
- Debbie Lowe [DL] – Chair
- Peter Seto [PS] - Vice-Chair
- Erik Hodge [EH] - Secretary, Recording Secretary

AICAB members absent:

- Phyllis Zander [PZ]

Guests:

- Dick Muri [DMu] - Pierce County Council Member, District 6

The two-initial abbreviations in square brackets, e.g., [AB], were used throughout these minutes for AICAB members as well as others who spoke multiple times.

Original Agenda:

- Adoption of Agenda
- Pierce County News – Dick Muri [DMu]

New Business

- AI Crime statistics & Concerns – Lt. Roger Gooch, PC Sheriff's Dept.
- Youth Violence Prevention Program
- Ferry Rate Fuel Surcharge – Toby Rickman, Deputy Director, PC Public Works

Issues From the Floor

AICAB Business Meeting

- Approval of September Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September Special Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of 2007 AICAB Officers

- Adjournment

[DL]: Called the meeting to order

[DL]: Thanks Guests, Lt. Roger Gooch, [DMu] for coming

[EH]: Moves that we adopt agenda.

[AT]: Seconds the motion

[Vote]: 8 aye, 0 no

[DMu]: 5 items:

Traffic impact fees – only affects those who build homes in unincorporated Pierce Co. Hope to raise \$600K in next 20 years from AI new construction to pay for parking lanes on both sides of ferry, ...

Drug testing: Prometha, new drug to cure addicts and results are very good. Tacoma and Gary, Indiana are both test beds. 90% success rate: meth, crack, alcohol, ... Each addict costs society \$70,000 per year. 75% of cured people are out in work force.

Budget: 18th of Oct budget from Executive Ladenburg, revenues are way up due to 11% gain in sales tax revenues.

County Mental Health Governing Board: \$50,000,000 budget per year in PC now has oversight, provided by this board.

Aviaries: People wanted additional laws/ordinances/licenses for these aviaries, but those did not exist anywhere else in the state. Formed PC Aviculture Advisory Committee to spend 12 months reviewing the state of the aviaries and make recommendations to the Council (is the 58th advisory committee in PC).

Crime Statistics & Concerns: Lt. Gooch [RG]

[RG]: New style of law enforcement, no longer just call and wait for off-island Key Penn. Police to arrive. Now, 1000% increase in police activity over the last year because cars are being sent out just for preventative service as well as when called. Can't provide 24/7 service due to ferry. Major crimes/incidences: using fire boat to bring police out to island. He provided copies of statistics before and after their push. Said to go to County Web site and then Sheriff's office link. Type in your address to get local stats (within 300 yds of your address). All major-crime categories dropped except arson. Cautions us to prevent ID theft including shredding papers, ...etc. Is a major rising crime US-wide. Cautions us that the island is developing and crime comes with increased development. Stay organized as a community, he says, and that prevents crime. All three major spring/summer holidays went well this year with more sheriff dept presence. Concerns about shooting have been expressed by some out here. County code is on PC Web site: County Council site has links to PC Codes including shooting code. Code says can't shoot within 500' of a structure (*any* structure). There isn't hardly any place on the island that thus allows shooting. Enforcement of this is going to be increased.

[Simona Martinez]: Asks about shooting over water.

[RG]: You can't shoot over water at all, that's illegal. Also addresses trespass laws; don't arrest on first contact, arrest them if they then trespass again. He advised islanders not to confront these shooters but to call police if necessary.

[RG]: Has spent last year in "honeymoon period" finding out what islanders want for enforcement of certain misdemeanors/traffic laws. E.g., we wanted quad runners dealt

with and golf cart drivers got pulled over, too, and were upset at the change. Enforcement of traffic laws will increase now. Turns over to Lt. Travis Hoffman [TH], Anderson Island neighborhood deputy, to provide details of past year.

[TH]: Accomplishments: have contacted known criminals and they know of police presence. Nov 2005: youth from Steilacoom HS and resident HS kids, broke into a cabin to have a party, were shooting street lights, signs, ...etc., vandalism occurred. Contacted everybody involved in the party and case is on prosecutor's office right now. 25 kids all had 1-on-1 with sheriff's dept, and they all know police no longer ignore things on AI any more. No reports of such activity since. Many things going on behind the scenes, quality of life issues, e.g., took care of abandoned autos – got them off the island after required 24-hour period. Stays in contact with AI Fire Dept which helps solve many problems. Sheriff's program: works with community to identify problems and give them tools to solve some problems themselves.

[Charlie Thomas]: Hunting season starts tomorrow. Does permission need to be written?

[TH]: Not sure. Recourse if you find someone on your land is to ask them to leave. If they don't, report to Sheriff. State Game Dept is supposed to investigate, but first responder is Sheriff's Dept.

[NBates]: Get license plate # of their car and report that in case they're gone when sheriff arrives.

[TH]: With license plate #, sheriff can have a talk with them after the fact.

[PS]: Clausen Rd., Brant Rd. Night hunting happens a lot out here. Stop pick-ups on first ferry off island and you'll find deer in them. First week of hunting season.

[Jeff Gillette]: Weekend where you can hunt either sex.

[Charlene Holt]: Can we ban shooting out here?

[TH]: Says we can approach council with a proposal to do that. Has authority to approach vehicles on park land without first receiving a complaint.

[Yolanda Nelson]: You have to have license and written permission to hunt on island.

[DMc]: Even written permission to hunt doesn't get around the 500' rule.

[Pat Lowe]: Should citizens call PC Sheriff or State Game Dept?

[TH]: State Game Dept is spread really thin, so call Sheriff if you want someone to come out right away. Dusk to dawn is when you can hunt.

[Jeff Gillette]: Asks if we can do what Sheriff did a few years back, ask people if they have permission to hunt when coming over to the island.

[TH]: Said Sheriff doesn't have right to do that.

[Rosemary Smith]: Asks about arson at school.

[TH]: Not sure since investigator is not here.

[Dave Galentine]: Bureau of A.T.F. is now investigating it.

Youth Violence Prevention Program

[DMu]: 1/10th % of sales tax revenues goes into this. Only unincorporated Pierce County has used its 1/4 of 1/10% on this; education programs, ...etc. Program you can apply for, Advisory Committee recommends to County Council what to do with \$1.6M. Feb-Mar is the time frame for making proposal for 2008. If AI comes up with good proposal/application, we will get funding. Recommends we do that. Lots of paperwork is needed up front, but is easy to do the following years.

[PS]: Program on island, Young Life, Christian program for this is doing well. Turns over to Jeff.

[Jeff Gillette]: Joe & Mikela Query Are running Young Life on island. They take kids on field trips, have over 40 kids involved. It's relationship based; they started out by getting on early ferry and getting to know the kids there. They say "No kid gets left behind"; not just for Christian kids, popular kids, ...etc. Kids trust them, and they promise not to tell others what the kids tell them. They help talk with kids and their parents in volatile situations. They are working on helping adults communicate with the new generation. Kids raised \$4000 on island to go to camp, cleaning gutters...etc., and that got people to know the kids of the island better which is great. Goal is to get adults and kids to get to know each other. It's all donation-based right now. Age group is middle school & high school on the island.

[NB]: Rick Guild Is on County committee for this program, and suggests CTF and others get together and brainstorm how to approach this and what we should apply for.

Ferry Rate Fuel Surcharge – with AICAB Ferry Committee, followed by Toby Rickman [TR], Deputy Director of PC Public Works:

[DL]: AICAB Ferry Committee to do a presentation

[CH]: Reminds no ferry next weekend including last run on Friday night, and all day Sat-Sun. New ferry is coming along nicely. Thanks Toby Rickman for all the information he's sent us in the past few weeks, and thanks Ed Stephenson [ES] for crunching the data.

[ES]: Thanks [TR] again, and thanks [DMu] as well. Proposed surcharge of 9% starting Jan 2007, purpose being to compensate for increased fuel costs 2006 and projected into 2007. We asked County for their analysis of need for this 9% as calculated by them in June 2006.

Net deficit for 2006 = \$84,971

Net deficit for 2007 (projected) = \$93,700

The 9% fare increase, they calculated, would get them the total to cover those deficits. The 2005 ridership numbers were used. \$1,970,000 total, times 9% = \$177,000 more. Costs go up and County wants us to pay for some of it. Will point out exceptions we have with their numbers. Ridership, revenues, costs. 68% of riders are <20' vehicles. 82% of revenue from fares is <20' vehicles + other vehicles. Youth, other walk-ons don't account for hardly any of the revenue. If we take into account 2.5% increase in ridership in 2007, then we don't need the whole 9% surcharge. \$2.2+Million if we have both the 2.5% increase and the 9% surcharge, thus there will be a \$55,000 overage. PC used diesel price in June to make the calculations, and current (Oct 2nd) price is expected to decrease by 6% over the winter per DOE, has seen big drop already this summer. Conclusions are than price is expected to continue to drop, so deficit analysis of June is no longer accurate. Other exception we have is goal of County is to collect 60% of operation and maintenance costs from fare box revenues, but they want us to pay 100% of over budget amount. We think it should be 60% of the overage. Ferry Committee asks AICAB board to oppose the surcharge based on these arguments.

[CH]: One other ferry committee member July 2006 [TR] was quoted as saying new ferry and new propeller will be more fuel-efficient thus fuel use should drop.

[DMc]: [ES]'s analysis is that surcharge is not necessary. Toby has said it rises 2.5% but paid ridership does not actually do that when price increases. There are many exempt

riders: 1834 exempt in the first eight months of 2005, 2648 exempt riderships In same period 2006. 736 last year claimed their child was under 5 years of age, this year 2525 claimed that. Just as IRS has discovered, if you raise taxes, people cheat more, and 2006 had increased rate for young children and others. Total non-Feb ridership of first 8 months of this year is down 1145 riders over last year, which is drop of 1526 riders if annualized over the year. Elasticity of demand also predicts that rise in price will drop ridership. Empty boat and full boat costs basically the same to County per run. County can not keep assuming ridership will increase 2.5% when you increase rates. 2002 over 2001 = .17% increase, 2003 over 2002: increase of 4%, 2004 over 2003: increase of 2.5%, 2005 over 2004: 4% increase. So, when rates increase, .69% ridership increase, other years up 4%. Expresses concern that surcharge will result in drop in ridership and possibly loss of revenue. Opposes surcharge because it will result in no increase in revenue. Says County has provided us with excellent ferry system, new ferry coming, state-of-the-art dock coming. Problem in long run, however, is we have to now pay for it. \$12,000,000 new ferry is sinking fund: \$240,000 a year for 50 years. Concerned for islanders and County alike. Our ferry already costs more than Vashon Island ferry.

[@ 1:43:48 in recording]:

[TR]: Addresses fuel economy: new boat will be more efficient, and old will be improved. If PC can collect the 60% due to drop in prices, they won't charge the surcharge next year. Surcharge was place holder for budget process, based on best information at the time for long-term diesel prices. Are tracking the data every month. See Public Works And Utilities on PC Web site, go to plan & results: see chart specifically detailing operating expenses for the month. Currently we are over the goal per September chart. Agrees ridership can change based on fare prices. Are \$92,000 over the 60% goal at the moment, but don't know if post-election fuel prices might increase over current. Budget discussion in November will address this, and maybe we can avoid the surcharge in that budget. PC did not use the 60% in their calculations because it already had been applied to get the \$177,000 figure.

[DMu]: Other 40%: where does it come from?

[TR]: Road tax, state subsidy for county ferry systems \$500,000/year split among 3 counties (Whatcom, Skagit, Pierce counties), so we get ~\$230,000/year from that. Federal Transit Administration also pays some, gas tax distribution too.

[Natalie Bates]([NB]): Points out that youth fares have increased faster than other categories, asks that 9% not be applied to children rate. 50% of families on island are eligible for free/reduced lunches so 50% of families are significantly impacted by youth fare changes. School district pays 50%+ of the children traveling to/from school. She asked that other fare categories that have had disproportionately lower fare changes be increased more.

[TR]: If ridership does actually increase 2.5%, and admits that was not accounted for in calculating the surcharge, then surcharge can be lower. Says PC has bought 115225 gallons through Sept, 44000 left to buy this year. \$20,000-\$30,000 swing is all that will drop in costs even if fuel costs keep dropping, so still will be under by \$60,000-\$70,000 in 2006.

[DMc]: Points out again the elasticity of demand

[TR]: Maybe 2.5% will not happen as a result, and PC calculated their 9% based on 0% increase in ridership.

[PS]: Less concerned with this surcharge, and more in long-term costs: M & O recovery paced to recover by 2016 and council has said raise fares every two years and more recovery from fares up to 80% from fares by 2016. Also, amortization costs and AI and Ketron facilities will have to be paid for. Additional vessel depreciation will as well. Calculations for inflation, projects have come in substantially over the bids so far.

[TR]: DOT has 20% over on almost every project.

[PS]: Always assumed increased ridership would take care of future costs but ridership increases aren't there. Need to ask Council: if fares rise too high, need to revisit M & O edict. Our fares are higher than almost anywhere in the state.

[TR]: Bainbridge island run subsidizes other runs.

[PS]: Asks for explanation of transportation plan update prediction of ridership

[TR]: New one in process, takes 18 months, 14-year plan of forecasts of traffic...etc. including ferry system. Ferry is, according to state law, a bridge with a propeller. Maybe we need to say that the level of service is too high. Maybe 80% recovery rate is too high. State doesn't include all of their assets in their 80% recovery, but County doesn't have that luxury.

[Dr. Charlene Holt]: Any thought given to alternative energy sources?

[TR]: Biodiesel is easiest to switch to, but there are trade offs. PC is looking into sustainable energy use, no easy solution for ferries.

[DMc]: Makes motion that AICAB go on record opposing the surcharge

[CH]: Seconds the motion

[PS]: Don't think that's a productive approach. We should take responsible position and accept that we need to pay for what we get

[DMc]: Don't accept that ridership will increase, and probably will decrease, if surcharge is added.

[TR]: If, in November, smaller amount is needed, then that's what they'll recommend. Need to collect 60% for two years.

[PS]: Where does County collect the additional money?

[DMc]: Either through lower fuel costs and/or with 2.5% increase in ridership. Has seen no indication that PC has taken price elasticity of demand in account.

[RA]: Agrees that we should not support the 9% surcharge as it may not be necessary.

[NB]: County can still do what they want even if we reject the surcharge.

[EH]: By supporting this motion, wants to make sure we are sending the message to the county that they should think hard about the effect on ridership of raising prices.

[DMc]: Will write letter to that effect if we pass this motion.

[EH]: Will support if communication to County is more than just that we're rejecting it, but additionally that 9% increase will detrimentally affect ridership and thus revenues.

[DMc]: restates motion: Propose that AICAB go on record in opposing the current proposal from the County in excess of 9% surcharge commencing January 1, 2007.

[vote recorded]: 7 aye, 1 no

[AT]: Change in Pierce Transit: change Lakewood complex completely is in works for later this year, we can't do anything until February but they are willing to adjust by

February. Need to know which are key ferries. Jim Payne said no more than 10 minute wait, but not for all ferries, just key ones that we identified.

[Bob Smith]: Are assuming price of diesel will continue dropping, and that as soon as election is over price will bounce back up.

[Dave Galentine]: Asks [TR] if we can continue buying fuel at cheaper prices, is ferry process flexible enough to adjust prices if they drop.

[TR]: They're looking at establishing a mechanism in future amendment to allow for decreasing fares if fuel rates drop rapidly enough.

[PS]: Asks [TR]: second loading ramp not seen as benefit to AI, why does it benefit us?

[TR]: Ridership is increasing and level of service is: For each Winter workday, everyone gets from and back to the island that needs to. That's a low bar. Reality is no bigger boat will be coming. Christine Anderson is 12 years old and has 38 more years on her.

Reality is we'll have to use two boats running concurrently and two docks will help.

New boat allows for 100 more passengers (350 people). With Dept. of Corrections using a slip, a second slip will be needed if AI runs are every half hour. More-frequent ferry runs might mean not having to increase the queuing lanes. \$1000 for four additional summer Friday runs would certainly alleviate some problems.

[DMc]: People on Island are less concerned about waiting for a boat and are more concerned about cost. Advises that total cost of second slip ...etc. be calculated and that Islanders be consulted.

[TR]: Agrees. 14-year plan has queuing lanes and 2nd slip in it but those aren't funded yet. Have lots of time to discuss with Anderson Islanders before it happens.

[DMu]: Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) will pay for queuing lanes.

[TR]: Reality is number of new homes on island won't cover that cost through TIF.

[PS]: Electrical subcontractor said float is on schedule but shipping of float might be late. Any comment?

[TR]: They haven't said anything about that. Have to make sure no orcas in the area when driving piles next Wed-Thurs. Fish window closes at end of month, have to wait another year if they don't get it done by end of Oct. They have to tell County what their schedule is and keep it up to date.

[ES]: Keep in mind when going to Council: Pierce Transit motto is they keep fares low because some people have no other means of transportation and we have the same problem.

[TR]: Dec 20th new boat shows up. [DMu] can cut the ribbon, drive around the island.

AICAB Buisness Meeting:

[CH]: Moves to approve Sept meeting minutes

[DMc]: Seconds

[Vote recorded]: 8 aye, 0 no

[CH]: Moves to approve Sept special meeting minutes

[DMc]: Seconds

[Vote recorded]: 8 aye, 0 no

Treasurer's report:

\$851 left in budget, should have about \$500 left, asking [DMu] to roll over into 2007

Election of 2007 AICAB Officers:

[PS]: Moves that we do election of officers at the next meeting

[EH]: Seconds the motion

[DL]: Marshel Ivie will be on the board at next meeting, HS nominee might be as well but very unlikely approval process will be through for them by then. Ladenburg's office said [JS] could continue serving until position is filled. [PZ] has decided to stay on.

[vote recorded]: 8 aye, 0 no

Re: [DMc]'s motion: he will write letter to Toby re: ridership going up 2.5% in spite of raised rates is highly unlikely. [DMc] will write the letter as himself.

[RA]: Moves that [DMc] write letter representing AICAB to PC about ridership statistics and our recommendation of our rejection of the surcharge

[PS]: Objects to [DMc] sending the contents of the letter: chair needs to inform the County Council of decisions made.

[DL]: Not listed as a duty of the Chair in the AICAB By-Laws. If person who made the motion writes the letter, that works well.

[DMc]: Will send letter out to draft to AICAB members first, at discretion of Chair to allow changes suggested by others.

[RA]: Letter should go to John Ladenburg.

[DMc]: Proposes that he, [DMc], write an unofficial letter to [TR], and that [DL] will write letter to John Ladenburg.

[DL] Vote on [RA]'s motion that [DMc] write letter to Toby, representing AICAB.

[vote recorded]: 6 aye, 2 no

[DMc]: Moves that [DMc] write an unofficial letter to [TR] and that [DL] will write official letter to Council and John Ladenburg notifying him of our rejection of the surcharge proposal.

[RA] Seconds the motion

[vote recorded] 8 aye, 0 no

[PS]: Moves to adjourn

[EH]: Seconds the motion

[vote recorded]: 8 aye, 0 no

Adjourned at 10:17 p.m.