



ANDERSON ISLAND CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

AICAB Meeting

December 8, 2006 7:32 p.m.

Community Clubhouse Anderson Island, Washington

Welcome

Debbie introduced Secretary Erik Hodge who will chair this evening's meeting, this being his first opportunity because, until the November meeting, he has been taking the meeting minutes. Erik welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Members present: Jim Singer (Treasurer), Peter Seto (Vice Chair), Marshel Ivie, Anthony Tognazzini, Randy Anderson, David McGoldrick, Chuck Hinds, Debbie Lowe (Chair), Phyllis Zander, Sunny Pepin (member-elect)

Guest: Steve Walter, General Manager, Tanner Electric

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Chuck and seconded by Phyllis that the proposed agenda be adopted. Passed unanimously.

Introductions

Sunny Pepin from Anderson Island Historical Society, who will fill Jim Singer's expired term, was introduced and seated at the members' table.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Marshel and seconded by Debbie that the November meeting minutes be approved as read. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Singer reported a checking account balance of \$511 and a Store Account balance of \$40. Jim stated that we began the year with \$3,000 and these are the remaining funds after paying rent and other expenses. There are still some pre-planning expenses to be paid before the January quarterly meeting, but we will still have a little money left over. Jim was thanked again for his work on the committee.

Old Business

AICAB Ferry Committee Report

Chuck Hinds reported on his meeting with the County Public Works Department Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) on November 28. The following were brought up by Chuck at this meeting, relaying questions and concerns directed to the AICAB Ferry Committee. Here are the County's responses:

- Requested cross walk at Island ferry landing: The County said that it is a State law that people have the right-of-way and that it has been brought up several times with the Traffic Department, whose domain it is. The FAC will bring it up again. We continue to ask for the cross walk at the intersection of Villa Beach Road and Yoman Road because it is a safety issue, especially because of poor visibility caused by cars (even the school bus) parked along Villa Beach Road.
- Some people have asked whether drivers sitting on the passenger deck during the crossing are delaying the unloading of the ferry and, if so, whether there should be an announcement for drivers to return to their cars at some point. The Ferry people did not think there is a problem but will check with the crew to verify this.
- Is the ferry announcement necessary on the return trip to Steilacoom since everyone has heard it on the trip to the Island? This P.A. announcement telling about safety features is a Coast Guard requirement for every ferry crossing.
- Once available, can the County use their reverse 9-1-1 system to notify Islanders of power outages or ferry delays? They cannot use it unless it is a real emergency. The ferry not running is not classified as a real emergency. They did not give an exact definition of “real emergency,” but possibly an imminent chance of flooding or eruption coming down the Nisqually would be classified a real emergency.
- Installation of Kiosks and on-line capability for purchasing ferry tickets They are in the process of purchasing the equipment and hope to have it ready NLT February. Chuck cautioned that while right now we know just how many trips we have left on our commuter passes by unused tickets, with the bar coded tickets (one piece of bar-coded paper) it will be our responsibility to keep track of how many trips are left. One suggestion was to have a reader available for people to scan for the number of remaining trips, but it would require additional funds for the equipment and a computer hook up. We will continue to receive information about efficient and effective ways to use the new system. It was noted that the State is going to this same kind of system.
- Full-time Ferry Administrator -- This job was posted and there were 11 people who applied for the position but, for some reason, the position will not be filled at this time. Don and Toby will continue to oversee the ferry situation.
- Old ferry has been sold – If its new owner has not taken possession by the time the new *Steilacoom II* is docked, it will probably be stored at Anderson Island for awhile. There was a question raised about where the proceeds will go and the thought was that it must go into the ferry capital improvement fund.
- Icy spots in Parking Lot --Chuck mentioned to the County that seeping and standing water froze in our recent storm, causing some accidents in the parking lot. The County Ferry Committee said they do not own the parking lot—it belongs to the Roads Division and they will mention this to

them. Some time this spring they need to put a good sealer on, or perhaps put in a french drain on the hill.

- Ferry surcharge –

The County has agreed with our recommendation to have only a 3.5% increase starting in April 2007 (instead of their original 9% increase beginning in January 2007). It was noted that this could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to recommend a change to the fare structure, as long as it provides the additional \$68,000 increase in ridership revenue. Based on residents' communications to the Ferry Committee as to the fairness of rates for disabled/seniors, children, et al., the Ferry Committee has done a lot of work trying to achieve the \$68,000 increase in a more equitable manner, using County data related to numbers of various types of tickets sold. Most of those inputs have requested that the increase for disabled/seniors be as low as possible since so many are on fixed incomes, that children's fees be reduced, and that single ticket purchases for drivers and walk-ons and vehicles in excess of 20 ft. be increased. Ed Stephenson provided two options from the ferry committee, which will be considered and voted on at the January AICAB meeting. Ed's report from the Ferry Committee follows:

- The majority of requests that the ferry committee has received concerning the ferry fares are for changes in 4 categories:
 - Reduce the youth
 - Reduce the senior fares
 - Recover a larger share of the costs from large vehicles
 - Recover a larger share of the costs from summer riders

An additional request is to get the senior car & driver fare more in-line with the regular car & driver since right now, seniors are asked to pay more than non-senior fares during the peak season.

Of the many possible options, the committee presented only two, one which continues the County policy of raising the summer (peak) rates by 20% and another which follows the State guideline and raises the summer rates by 25%. The advantage of raising the summer rates more is that it allows us to lower the non-peak rates by a comparable amount which, in total, is an advantage for most Island residents.

Our option 1 would reduce the County proposed fares for

Youth,
Senior/Disabled Car & Driver,
Commuter Passenger, and
Commuter Car & Driver

This would increase all other single ticket prices over the County-proposed fares a comparable amount including

Single ticket car & driver

Single ticket senior passenger/walk-on, and

All vehicles over 20 ft.

Summer (peak) fares would increase by approximately 20% as is the current policy.

In our option 2, the summer (peak) fares would be increased by 25% from the County-proposed fares, allowing a further reduction in non-peak fares for

Commuter Passenger,

Commuter Car & Driver,

Adult passenger, and

Even for some vehicles over 20 ft. (since the peak fares would make up the difference).

In total, both options are approximately 3.5% increase to provide the required \$68,000, but individual increases are distributed more in line with what residents have indicated they want.

Since the County, for the first time, has given us this opportunity to change the fare structure, the committee feels we need to follow through. These relative changes would then be continued in the same proportion in the County-proposed fare increases for 2008-2009, which at the present time are projected to be more than a 16% increase.

Further, we will check to be sure that the County can wait until January for our recommendation.

Ed will send a copy of his Excel file showing the options and comparisons to fares on Vashon to Erik so that it can be posted on the AICAB website. The actual recommended dollar amounts for each category of ridership are on the website.

Peter moved that we accept the County recommendation for a 3.5% across-the-board increase. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Phyllis mentioned that she had been approached regarding having someone on the ferry committee who has school-age children. Natalie Bates offered that she can provide a couple of names. Lucy Stephenson told the committee that not every group on the Island can be personally represented on the Ferry Committee; parents of school-age children are well represented amongst the current Ferry Committee members, two of whom commute every day on the ferry and can make visual observations about children and youth commuters, and who receive comments from parents and others who are striving to make their requests "happen." The key is communication, and everyone who writes or calls a member of the Ferry Committee receives a personal reply once they have an answer from the County or some status to report. This is a very responsive committee.

Furthermore, increasing the size of the Ferry Committee beyond five would extend the length of time required to accomplish anything.

Item to talk about with the County at a future meeting

- *Marshel mentioned his concern about large vehicles parked on the ferry's inside lanes restricting access to the elevator for the disabled and people with baby strollers, large briefcases, luggage, etc.* Since placement of vehicles is done by the crew, with the responsibility to not leave vehicles behind and to observe all safety requirements for load distribution, blocking access to the elevator on some occasions may be unavoidable. Ed mentioned that there is a 2-ft. passenger lane on the new ferry that will help solve this problem when the Steilacoom II is being used.

New Ferry Dedication now set for January 6, 2007

Dedication of the new Steilacoom II The new ferry dedication had to be delayed until January 6 due to inability to complete work because of inclement weather, power interruptions, and training. The County will send out announcements with the confirmed date. We have received suggestions to have sign-ups for people who want to be on the cruise around the Island. This event is being planned and executed by the County, which has said they do not think we will exceed the maximum number of passengers and are reluctant to have sign-ups. Instead, if we have more than 350 passengers, they will take a second cruise around the Island. Note: Toby expects about 30 people coming from the mainland—crew and County officials. There was concern expressed that a second cruise in January would likely occur after dark. Although they had mentioned a mailing to all residents, they are not sure now they want to do that. It was suggested they could use a postcard such as went out to announce the Community Planning Board meeting last month. Chuck will revisit this with Toby one more time and notify us if there is any change to their current plan. No cars will be allowed to drive on the ferry with the exception of the catering truck/van carrying the food. Notices as to the County's plan have already been posted at the Store and Phyllis took a copy to put up at the Riviera. We must remember that the Christine Anderson will be running on schedule that day, so there is little parking space even though this is a weekend. Chuck will talk with Bob Garmire regarding traffic control on the Island side for safety reasons. This is a really big event to Islanders, who contributed thoughts about things that could occur on the Island to mark the occasion—Fire Boat escort and spray, yacht club involvement, balloons, T-shirts should some organization on the Island want to do that as a fund-raiser.

Anderson Island Hazardous Waste Disposal

A comprehensive plan was presented by Marshel Ivie for collection, transport, and disposal of hazardous waste and other items that would be harmful to the environment if improperly disposed of on public or private land. Anderson Island has been placed on a list of sites for participation in a "Spring Cleanup" pending funding approval by Pierce County for 2007. A large container and staff will be

provided at the collection site for anywhere from one to three days, most likely near the ferry parking area. This would be paid for by Pierce County.

In addition, the HWD committee recommended that AICAB put together a program that could arrange to have designated Island residents provide a pick up and disposal service for major appliances, electronic components, and any other items which are not allowed to be placed in the Island sanitary collection system. This would be a “fee-for-service” program and arranged on a case-by-case basis with each property owner.

There was discussion regarding notifying residents of these efforts. It was noted that the last time the County provided hazardous waste pick-up, almost no one showed up. Once we know if the County has budget for the spring clean-up, we will notify Islanders. We will also let them know about the availability of services for disposing of items that the County cannot pick up. It was suggested the new telephone book would be an excellent way for these service providers to let Islanders know.

A link to the 27-page report to AICAB from the HWD will be available on the AICAB website, which, in turn, contains links to agencies and regulations on line.

Erik called our attention to the fact that there are two issues here: one in which AICAB should be involved, namely the County doing a once-a-year (or more) hazmat collection, and the other in which the AICAB should not be involved because it is not related to the County, namely refuse-and-recycle-collection businesses. An AICAB flyer mentioning Marshal’s name would be a conflict of interest for Marshal, but a flyer could mention that such services are available on the Island.

Inputs to AICAB from Islanders indicate there is concern about the improper disposal of appliances, mattresses, and other items that have been found in empty cul-de-sacs and along the roadsides. We will continue efforts to explore solutions that meet community concerns and in which the community will want to participate.

Sunny mentioned the “Take it or Leave it” system used on the San Juan Islands, but Marshal said that we have already been told that the LRI site cannot be used to store anything due to safety concerns.

Proposed By-Law Revisions

After discussion, it was moved by Peter and seconded by Randy that the proposed by-laws be adopted as presented, with one amendment: ARTICLE V, Meetings, paragraph 1, delete the last phrase of this paragraph which reads: “*with all meetings open to the public pursuant to RCW 42.30.*” It was considered redundant since all County meetings are open to the public. The vote was 8 in favor, and 2 against. Motion passed.

Surface Water Management

Debbie Lowe read an e-mail response from Paul Bocchi, Council Budget Analyst, explaining that these funds cannot be used for underground utilities, and asking that we locate and prioritize areas where we have flooding problems and these monies can be used to address those problems. It was noted that Scott Redman has such a list which has been submitted to the County. Anderson Island rates are linked to Key Peninsula at \$34 per year. Puyallup is as high as \$3,000 per year.

Status Report on Bathroom Construction at Lowell Johnson Park

On Wednesday, November 15, Mary Schmidtke wrote: "All expenditures must be incurred by December 31 for inclusion in the current fiscal year. We need the invoices for those activities early in January so we can pay them during the 13th-month window." in response to Merry McNutt's written request for final date for expenditure of County funds. Merry reported the \$19,500 will be spent by the deadline. Tony McNutt is volunteering time to order, pick up and deliver materials to the Island for the building. Doug Sherrill recently purchased septic materials. Carol Paschal is ordering plumbing supplies today. Baseline Engineering told Toria Estes on December 4 that the water system proposal would be completed and mailed out to the Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) on December 5. Merry's brother, an architect, advised that Rick Anderson cannot perform the work for the structural engineering stamp required by Pierce County because Rick is not a structural engineer specializing in building design. Therefore, Merry's brother is contacting a structural engineer he often works with to get a bid from him for this required service. Once the water system is signed off by WA DOH, the septic and bathroom building designs can be signed off and construction can begin! ☺. --Merry thanked Peter for the heads up that that any bid over \$10,000 we are required to have three bids, so we are getting the additional bids that are required. They have spent \$4,460 so far on bricks, septic supplies, and part of the bill for engineers.

AICAB Officers for 2007

The following officers were elected for 2007:

Chair	Debbie Lowe
Vice Chair	Erik Hodge
Secretary	Erik Hodge
Treasurer	Anthony Tognazzini

Erik extended appreciation to outgoing officers Peter Seto, Vice-Chair (two years), and Jim Singer, Treasurer (two years). Debbie thanked Erik Hodge for all his work as secretary, and Erik thanked Debbie for her work as chair, saying "You do more than even I thought!" mentioning the preparation of the agenda and coordination and contacts that must be made before the beginning of every meeting.

2007 County Funding Approvals for Anderson Island

Dick Muri's report as follows:

\$10,000 Historical Society
5,000 Community Club
16,000 Crime Task Force
15,000 Youth Violence Prevention (Youth Enhancement Fund)
3,000 AICAB operating expenses

The \$10,000 for the Historical Society roof replacement/repair is being funneled through the AICAB to simplify the bureaucracy. Ditto on the \$5,000 to repair the community club. The Youth Enhancement dollars are allocated to help pay for Anderson Island kids to attend Young Life camp in the summer of 2007.

The ferry rate increase of 3.59% is effective 1 April to 31 December 2007. During 2007 we will have the AICAB or AICAB ferry committee hold hearings on proposed ferry fares for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years. We need to emphasize financial accountability of Pierce County Public Works and a system to better monitor the ferry enterprise fund.

We are in the process of selling the "9th Street Pit" near Puyallup. The sale generates \$350,000 of capital improvement funds for county council district six. 100% of those funds will go into the ferry capital improvement fund. Thus lowering capital funding requirements raised through the fare box. This will ameliorate future ferry fares requirements.

I give a lot of credit to the AICAB for the good budgeting news for the island. The dialogue has made it easier to connect the needs of the citizens with their county government. I look forward to doing the same in 2007.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Dick

NEW BUSINESS

Building Permits/Electricity

Debbie reported that she received an inquiry to AICAB from an Islander on the evening before tonight's meeting asking: "*With the electrical system the way it is, why are they still issuing building permits?*" Debbie immediately contacted Jim Singer and Randy Anderson (Tanner Board & AICAB members), who were able to locate Steve Walter who happened to be on the Island, and Steve came to the meeting to respond to this question. Steve said that problems are in certain areas, not on the whole Island, especially around the lake and Riviera Drive. Seaview is farthest out. It takes about an hour to get all systems back on after an Island-wide outage. Customers can help their neighbors by turning off heat and TV's once an outage has occurred. It takes about 20 minutes to get one phase going and then they can put another system on. AI has added 65-70 homes over last 2 years. A bigger issue is that many weekenders have sold their homes to people who now live here full time. Tanner is having to play "catch up." Two-thirds of the Island homes are not occupied full-time. The line from the Store to the ferry and around Guthrie Road is overloaded substantially. It has increased by 50% since Steve was here two years ago. They need to build more

3-phase lines around the lake. When restoring power, they need to wait longer to add on the next phase; otherwise they lose the whole system and have to start over again. The main system is coming from the south of the Island and runs to Sandberg Road. They are determining where to split up the system for best use of dollars to meet the current and future power demands. They have some flexibility but not a lot--a good system will be a better system if everything works as intended in the next couple of years.

Steve said that the short, planned outage early tomorrow morning is because the preceding scheduled outage for injection indicated a leak which they will repair.

Steve was asked about how we can keep surges from ruining expensive appliances and equipment. The rental cost of a surge protector for a complete home is only \$2.50 per month.

Ed Stephenson asked, "Since the submerged cable is 32 years old and was estimated to last 30-40 years, what are your plans for the future?" Steve said the new injection system is supposed to make our cable last another 40 years. This requires a long-range plan and they are still in the early stages of that. Steve added that we are currently using only 20% of its capacity.

School Impact Fee

Impact fee for new construction is \$2,780 or what is required by needs, whichever is less. Dick Muri will be here in January and can respond in more detail. He will be on vacation for awhile during the holidays.

Miscellany

- Also there has been other legislation – court will not accept review of boundary case for Clover Park District. This result is very good news for our school district and should mean a major property tax decrease.
- Fertilizer, "Sound Gro." Pierce County Sewer Plant will be selling processed sewage, but are now offering free samples. We can stop by and pick up two free bags at their facility near Chambers Bridge.

Issues from the Floor

Merry McNutt asked for clarification on the 2007 County budget line item for funding Island youth attending Camp Malibu. Opinions in the room differed as to whether this is a Christian ministry program or a recreational camp. Debbie stated that it is her understanding that the Young Life program is not affiliated with any specific church, and that kids who are members of ANY church or who are members of NO church are welcome to participate in the program. There is an objection IF these funds are being sent to a Christian camp at taxpayers' expense and that the monies appear to be channeled through AICAB. Debbie clarified that this funding approval did not go through AICAB; Dick Muri added it to the 2007 budget as a separate item on his own, and the funds will be distributed directly to the organization. It was mentioned that Young Life is the

only organization on the Island offering a program to prevent Youth Violence. It has been mentioned that organizations listed in the budget bill the County and then the County issues a check. Anthony, incoming Treasurer, will get clarification of the process and how funds will be disbursed, and report at our meeting in January.

Adjournment

It was moved by Debbie and seconded by Randy that the meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.