LUMMI ISLAND FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
First Meeting

May 21, 2012

CALL TO ORDER
Temporary Committee Chair Mike McKenzie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Lummi Island Grange, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL
Present: Charles Antholt, Greg Brown, Robert Bush, Stu Clark, Mike McKenzie, and Josh Zender.
Absent: Crispin Colburn

FLAG SALUTE (next meeting - will bring a flag)

OPENING AND WELCOME
Mike McKenzie welcomed both the Committee Members and the public that were present at the meeting.

MINUTES CONSENT (There are no previous meeting minutes to approve)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS
Each of the Committee members in turn gave a brief personal history of and expressed the reasons they were serving on the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee.

ELECTION OF PERMANANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR
Mike McKenzie was nominated by Charles Antholt and seconded by Stu Clark. There were no other nominations.
The nomination carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Antholt, Brown, Bush, Clark, Zender (5)
Nays: None (0)
Abstain: McKenzie (1)
Absent: Colburn (1)

ELECTION OF PERMANANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR
Stu Clark was nominated by Mike McKenzie and was seconded by Charles Antholt. There were no other nominations.
The nomination was carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Antholt, Brown, Bush, Clark, McKenzie, Zender (6)
Nays: None (0)
Abstain: None ()
Absent: Colburn (1)

ELECTION OF PERMANANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE SECRETARY
There were no nominations from the Committee. There was considerable discussion as to whether or not it would be better to have a community volunteer to perform this duty so that the Committee members could pay more attention to the overall meeting. After discussion Greg Brown volunteered to perform the secretary duties for this meeting and the Committee would defer election of this position until the next meeting.

**ELECTION OF PERMENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TREASURER**
Josh Zender was nominated for this position by Greg Brown and was seconded by Mike McKenzie. There were no other nominations.
The nomination was carried by the following vote:

- **Ayes:** Antholt, Brown, Bush, Clark, McKenzie, Zender (6)
- **Nays:** None (0)
- **Abstain:** None ()
- **Absent:** Colburn (1)

**DISCUSS AND APPROVE RULES OF ORDER AND OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT REQUIREMENTS**
The Committee discussed the Rules of Order and decided unanimously to follow Roberts Rules of Order as much as possible. The Committee wants to be a little less formal to allow some flexibility for more informal discussion if required.
The Committee talked for a few minutes on Chapter 42.30 RCW Open Meeting Act and will follow the act as provided.
There was also discussion regarding input from community attendees to the Committee Meetings. The Committee agreed to have an "OPEN SESSION" for future meetings to replace the "OPEN AND WELCOME" provided for in this initial meeting as follows:

**OPEN SESSION (20 minutes)**
During open session, audience members can speak to the Committee on any issue regarding the operation and maintenance of the Lummi Island Ferry. Each speaker shall state his or her name for the record and will be given three (3) minutes to address the Committee.

There was also discussion of having a second open session at the end of the meeting to allow the audience to ask final questions and or to comment. It was agreed to by the Committee that this would not be a formal agenda item, but would be at the discretion of the chair and if time allows.

**MEETINGS**
The Committee agreed unanimously that the meeting time would be set from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
The next meeting has been set for Monday June 4th.
The meeting location will be at the Lummi Island Grange unless there is an unknown conflict.
Back-up locations were identified as the Lummi Island Fire Station or the home of Charles Antholt.
The Committee did not set a regular meeting schedule at this time. The Committee members felt that they would need some time to determine if this should be monthly, bi-monthly of the minimum quarterly schedule. The specific tasks required of the Committee may set the meeting schedule.
DISCUSS COUNTY COUNCIL ORDINANCE 2012-005 TO INCLUDE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND DUTIES.
The Committee discussed Ordinance 2012-005 and Exhibit A. The Ordinance outlines the Establishment, Purpose, Function, Membership, Organization, and Committee Staffing for the Lummi Island Advisory Committee.

The actual tasking of the Committee was discussed:
Brown commented that this Committee is under the Supervision of the County Council and that specific tasks should be at the direction of the Council.
McKenzie felt that the tasks were spelled out in the 2.145.030 Function section of the Ordinance and The Committee should move ahead with these items. McKenzie also pointed out that he had been requested by Mr. Abart that the Whatcom County budget was due June 30 and that he said that he was looking at a $250,000 reduction in the Ferry Operation Budget.
The Committee determined that in the short time period before the budget submission this its primary task would be to address Mr. Abart's concern with the budget reductions. Zender and Busch were directed by this Committee to obtain a copy of the current Ferry Operation Budget and distribute it to the Committee members for review.

There was also a good deal of discussion concerning the efforts and recommendations made by the 2011 Citizen's Task Force for the Lummi Island Ferry. Mary Ross provided each of the Committee Members with a copy of the Task Force Report prior to the start of this meeting.
The Committee decided that a second priority for them at this time would be to review and determine how to address the Task Force recommendations that are due in late September 2012.

OPEN SESSION (public comment period)
Bill Lee thanked the members of the Committee for volunteering to support the Ferry. He provided a little history of the original committees that had no official status. Bill lobbied for the support of the Ferry crew members. Bill said that the crew is interested and available to the Committee.

Wynne Lee commented that a presentation by the Task Force would be a good idea.
Bud Jewell was a member of the Ferry Committee in 1985 and is here to help the Committee. He also pointed out that when fares were lowered that the ridership increased.
Mary Ross addressed the Citizen's Task Force Report that she had assembled and presented to the Committee prior to the start of the meeting.
Fred Kinney suggested that the Committee get input from the Ferry crew.
Mike Skehan invited the Committee to the Lummi Island Community Association (LICA) "pot luck" to be held on June 27th. The LICA would schedule about 30 minutes for member(s) to speak. Mike also encouraged the Committee to address the Ferry Task Force recommendations, to look at realistic solutions to the budget reduction, to look at an estimated $180,000 surplus.
estimated for the 2012 Ferry Operations budget, and that the Committee operate under the Open Meetings Act.

Chandler Johnson who was a Ferry Task Force member provided the Committee with documents from his task force files. He referenced a couple of Surveys in the documents that would be of great value to the Committee. Johnson pointed out the following:
1. Chantelle Hilsinger is the County contact for ridership information
2. The Committee should look at "needs based fares"
3. Ferry ticket data is very accurate
4. Manual counts are not as accurate - count is made only from the mainland to the island.

Wynne Lee encouraged use of the local experts and that the Committee continue to foster the good relationship with the Island Community as was done by the Ferry Task Force. She suggested that the Committee continue with the Task Force Communication plan and suggested several ways to post meeting minutes and other communication to the Community.

Rhayma Blake spoke in support of the Advisory Committee.

Mary Ross, Secretary for Protect Lummi Island Community (PLIC), explained that service cuts for the Ferry will be a bad thing and asked that the Committee members "walk in their shoes on occasion."

OTHER BUSINESS
The Committee decided that at the June 4th Advisory Committee Meeting the following items would fill the meeting Agenda:
1. Review and discussion of the means to address the reduction in the Ferry Operations Budget.
2. A short presentation by a member(s) of the Citizen's Task Force for the Lummi Island Ferry to help provide the newest members of the Committee with a summary of the Task Force efforts and recommendation.
3. Review of the Task Force recommendations and discussion on priorities to address the recommendations.

The Agenda for the next meeting:

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
FLAG SALUTE
MINUTES CONSENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS
Presentation from Citizen's Task Force
OPEN SESSION
CURRENT BUSINESS
Ferry Operations Budget Reductions
Citizen's Task Force Recommendations
Cost for Meeting location
OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

The Committee also discussed some financial issues regarding use of the Lummi Island Grange as a meeting facility. McKenzie said that he would contact the appropriate individuals and request that the facility be provide free of charge to the voluntary Advisory Committee as was done for the Citizen's Task Force.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The Committee approved these minutes on 6/18/12, 2012

ATTEST:

Michael McKenzie, Committee Chair