
Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of **Guemes Island Ferry Committee** was held at **Guemes Church** on **February 9, 2018**. Attendees included **Steve Orsini, Allen Bush, Bud Ullman, Tom Fouts, Sandy McKean**.

Approval of minutes

Minutes of January 29, 2018 meeting were read, modifications made, and then approved by motion.

Announcements

Steve informed the GIFC that Glen Veal is independently putting together an cost estimate of what it would take to re-power the existing boat. Glen's initial number is \$1.25MM.

Steve and Allen, also being members of GIPAC, updated GIFC on the status of the GI water supply as a limiting factor to future development and population growth on GI (which would affect ferry capacity requirements). GIPAC is the proper island organization to provide input to, and track the progress of, the SEPA being done by the county which is expected to include an analysis of this water/growth issue. The county has stated that they will make modifications to ordinances to support rain catchment systems as part of the solution to GI water availability, but that ordinances have not yet done in spite of much discussion in recent years.

Unfinished business

All action items listed in the 1/29/18 minutes were accomplished.

The county has still not supplied to Bud the documents he requested concerning ferry parking lot (Guemes side) paving project. Bud was uncertain whether it still made sense to oppose this project. Tom felt that whatever paving and drainage the county did, it should follow county standards for Park & Ride lots.

Bud spoke to some sort of "communications officer" at the county in an attempt to determine Skagit County's stance on bill SB6354. The responses were unclear until finally a phone call from Rachel Rowe indicated that the county supports SB6354. A GIFC draft statement in favor of legislative bill SB6354 had been written by Steve. We discussed Steve's written statement and made a number of edits to it. The new version was approved for posting to LineTime and other island websites, as well as for mailing to Senator Ranker and Senator Bailey.

At our 1/29/18 meeting we concluded that GIFC would ask the county to instruct Glosten to do a rough estimate of the cost of a smaller ferry than the 32 car current preliminary design (see 1/29/18 meeting minutes). Steve suggested that the smaller ferry ought to have a 26 car capacity; Sandy and Tom felt that our initial thought of a 28 car ferry was still the best option. Sandy remembered that Glosten had mentioned on several occasions that the appropriate "next size down" ferry would be 28 cars since there are 4 lanes in the proposed ferry design. Steve felt 26 cars was most appropriate to be consistent with the 26 car size recommended by the 2013 EBDG report. Tom felt that a larger ferry (32 car, or if needs be 28 car) would leave a better legacy to future GI generations, and would be a safer ferry to operate. No final GIFC decision was made on this issue, but it was decided that Bud would draft content for a possible future letter on this ferry size issue. The GIFC will attempt to reach consensus on ferry size as we word-smith that content.

New Business

Several GIFC members expressed discomfort with the idea of audio recording of our rather informal ad hoc meetings. A recording device was in use, but was turned off for the rest of the meeting.

After much discussion it was concluded that the GIFC supports the County's intention to build a new boat consistent with the Glosten 30% design documents (although modifications such as boat size may well occur down the road), and for short we will refer to that effort as "**Plan A**". Glen Veal's effort that favors a more modest ferry solution will be referred to as "**Plan B**". It was generally felt that Plan B could come in very "handy" down the road if it turns out that the funds to build a new boat can not be raised.

How urgent it is to submit any and all ferry design change requests to the county was discussed. Steve felt that it was very urgent since once the CRAB money was awarded (maybe as early as April), significant design changes would no longer be permitted. Sandy disagreed feeling that CRAB would likely only care about changes to the overall funding plan; and since the CRAB application requested only a 30% design level, CRAB would be expecting changes to the design after the grant was awarded.

Motions

Two motions were floated, but none passed. One motion declared that when GIFC requested a cost estimate for a smaller boat, that we specify a 28 car ferry; this motion died for lack of a second. Another motion was very similar except that the motion specified a 26 car ferry; this motion failed by a 2 to 1 vote with 2 abstains.

Action Items

Draft a letter to county asking for a rough \pm 20% cost estimate for a 26 or 28 car ferry (Bud)

Schedule the GIFC island-wide quarterly meeting for the 1st quarter. Place notice in LineTime, myguemes.org, and What's up, Guemes? websites, as well as to post it on the ferry terminal blackboard, and to email Rachel Rowe. (Steve)

Construct an agenda for the first 2018 PW/FC meeting scheduled for March 2, 2018 at the Anacortes Library. (Steve)

Contact the CRAB folks to determine how firmly they would hold the ferry design to the 30% design submitted in the CRAB application (especially as to the size of the vessel). (Steve)

Reports

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm

Sandy McKean

Note taker