

Agenda Item No. 1c
For: June 12, 2008

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, May 7, 2008



Convene at 12:00 p.m. – Adjourn by 1:15 p.m.
Bayside Rooms 3 and 4
Pier One, Port of San Francisco

Approval of Summary of Meeting of April 2, 2008

1. Operational Issues

- Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
- Parking and Access Update
- Update on Vessel Maintenance/Drydocking, Status of Back-up Bus Service
- Status of Route 97 Bus: Larkspur Ferry Terminal to San Francisco Financial District

2. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- New Golden Gate Ferry Vessel Update
- Ferry Passenger “Social Issues”

3. Member/Visitor Comments

4. Committee Business

- Establishment of FPAC Attendance Standards

5. Next Meeting: June 4, 2008

- Survey of members to determine if a quorum will be present

Attachments: 1. Summary from meeting of April 2, 2008
2. Ferry Route Performance Report for March 2008
All Routes
Larkspur-AT&T Ballpark
Larkspur Ferry Terminal-San Francisco Ferry Terminal
Larkspur-Sausalito Ferry Terminal
Sausalito Ferry Terminal-San Francisco Ferry Terminal

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Notes of Meeting of Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Bayside Rooms 3 and 4 Pier One, Port of San Francisco

FPAC Members Present: RADM Frank Johnston, Robert Karfiol, Eric Selvig, Dwight Steeves, Cindy Swift

Staff Present: Gregory Hansard, Marine Superintendent; Harvey Katz, Senior Planner

Guests: Reinhard Ludke, Sleepy Hollow resident and frequent ferry rider; Marta McGovern, SFFD staff and ferry rider

Approval of Summary of Meeting of March 5, 2008. The summary was approved.

1. Operational Issues

Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity. Mr. Katz provided the customary staff report. FPAC requested that staff prepare a ferry overload summary for one year to show seasonal variations.

Parking and Access Update. Staff reported that plans had been submitted to BCDC, whose review should be finished by mid-April. FPAC requested that staff send to members (by email) the latest .pdf file of the improvement plans. FPAC also wanted to learn the approximate date that construction would begin and the status of signage planning.

Update on Vessel Maintenance – Drydocking – Back-up Bus Service. The *M.V. Mendocino* will be out of service for repairs for 6 to 8 weeks starting March 31. Work includes installation of four new engines, a new exhaust system, and engine room ventilation. This is a large job that includes an “A List” of mandatory items and a “B List” of desirable work to be undertaken if resources permit. The effort will also include: design changes to keep the inside of the vessel dryer, fixing toilet problems, and if possible, floor replacement. The total contract is for \$3 million.

The District also intends to drydock two of the Spauldings (*M.S. San Francisco* and *Sonoma*) after the 2008 baseball season ends. The planned work will not be as extensive as on the *Marin* last year.

Staff discussed its efforts to provide back-up bus service for overflow ferry passengers during the drydocking. Staff wants the buses available for the 7:10 and 8:20 a.m. departures, but this is not always possible. Staff is developing a contingency plan to put a Spaulding into service to carry overflow passengers for the 8:20 departure should no buses be available. Buses will be available, if needed, for afternoon trips. Dwight Steeves commented that the *Del Norte* has been unreliable and wondered what Ferry would do should it break down during the *Mendocino* drydocking. Staff responded that recent repairs have made it more reliable but Ferry does have a back-up plan if it breaks down.

2. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

New Golden Gate Ferry Vessel Procurement. Committee discussed circulation onto and within the high-speed ferries. FPAC believes that entering and leaving the vessels is inadequate and the design of the new vessel should address this problem. Entrance and egress on the Spauldings is better. There should be at least two open doors to permit better circulation and faster loading and unloading.

Staff reported the new vessel will have three decks and main-deck loading is preferred but not simple to achieve, given the current design of ferry landing facilities. FPAC emphasized the importance of fast passenger loading and unloading. Staff reported that specifications for the RFP will be ready during April.

Availability of Surplus Ferry Vessels in Washington State. Members requested that staff provide an update on possible surplus *Del Norte*-type vessels available in Washington State. They proposed that Golden Gate Ferry or WETA acquire them as they are needed in this region. However, they are smaller than what the District needs and would require engine replacement. Mr. Steeves commented that one had been for sale on-line. Members felt that it would be useful for WETA to pursue obtaining them as regional back-up vessels to be used in case of transportation emergencies.

Ferry Passenger “Social Issues”. Staff is arranging for stepped-up enforcement of the no-smoking regulations on the 5:20 p.m. Spaulding. There will be PA announcements regarding reserving or occupying more than one seat. Deckhands will give passengers cards reminding passengers to curb their cell phone use. Cindy Swift suggested that this also be part of the PA announcements.

3. Member/Visitor Comments

- Mr. Steeves inquired about WiFi service on Golden Gate Ferry vessels. Staff responded that this project will be resumed in the near future.
- Visitor Marta McGovern, a new Larkspur ferry passenger, requested feeder bus service to commute-time ferries, including from Novato. Staff responded that it supports the operation of shuttles but does not have the funds for them. During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that Marin County could support the shuttle and/or that riders could pay a small surcharge.

4. Committee Business

- Establishment of FPAC Attendance Standards. This item was discussed briefly and its consideration postponed until the next (May) meeting.
- Consideration of Reinhard Ludke for Membership. Staff advised Mr. Ludke of possible conflict of interest between his employment membership on FPAC. It was suggested he discuss this with District staff.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 7, 2008**, at noon in the usual location (Pier One in San Francisco). All members present expect to attend.