

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

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, November 5, 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 October 1, 2008

1. Operational Issues

- Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
- Parking and Access Update
- Report on Vessel Maintenance/Drydocking

2. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- New Golden Gate Ferry Vessel Update
- Ferry Passenger “Code of Conduct”
- TransLink and Elimination of Ferry Discount Ticket Books
- Review of Proposed Bus Service Changes

3. Member/Visitor Comments

4. Committee Business

5. Next Meeting: January 7, 2009

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

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

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Notes of Meeting of Wednesday, October 1, 2008

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

FPAC Members Present: Ken Eichstaedt, RADM Frank Johnston, Colman Mullin, Erik Selvig, Robert Karfiol, Dwight Steeves

Staff Present: Rebecca Wessling, Terminal Operations Superintendent; Christian Stark, Marine Projects Manager; Harvey Katz, Senior Planner

Guests: Reinhard Ludke, Denise Turner (Port of San Francisco)

Approval of Summary of Meeting of September 3, 2008.

1. Operational Issues

Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity. Harvey Katz presented the staff report on overcrowding on the Larkspur AM peak ferries that increased in September over August. This may be due to the seasonal change in commuter travel. Colman Mullin reported that two ramps were being deployed for the Sausalito vessels at the San Francisco terminal in the afternoons. This speeds passenger disembarking time, especially when many people travel with their bicycles.

Ken Eichstaedt asked if these “over-capacity” reports could be acted upon. Could Ferry management take action to accommodate the overflow in the short-term? Staff responded that adding more capacity would require another full-shift crew for which there is no money. However, the long-term solution is underway – the purchase of new high-speed ferry vessels.

Robert Karfiol asked staff what happens to the would-be passengers not able to board. According to informal observations, some stay for the next departure and others return to the parking lot. Mr. Eichstaedt suggested that those left behind should have a place to meet and form informal carpools. Reinhard Ludke added that management should develop a short-term strategy for dealing with the overflow patrons.

Rebecca Wessling introduced Christian Stark, Marine Projects Manager for Ferry, whose work involves obtaining new vessels.

Parking and Access Update. Construction for parking expansion at Larkspur Ferry Terminal continues. Ms. Wessling expects that half the new parking spaces should be available at the end of October. Mr. Eichstaedt related that the main bicycle/pedestrian path fronting the parking lot along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard needs improvement, especially at the transition between the asphalt and the concrete gutter pan. Mr. Katz added that construction of the bike/ped tunnel through Cal Park Hill has begun.

Update on Vessel Maintenance – Drydocking – Back-up Bus Service. Christian Stark announced that the two non-refurbished Spaulding vessels would undergo routine maintenance during November and December. The *M.V. Del Norte* would be repowered starting in February 2009, to be out of service for 3 to 4 months. Mr. Karfiol inquired whether our drydocking could be coordinated with other ferry operators who might have a spare vessel available. Staff responded that Golden Gate Ferry uses upper deck rather than main deck passenger loading, making it difficult to use other vessels without vessel modifications. At this point the discussion led to vessel procurement.

2. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

New Golden Gate Ferry Vessel Procurement. Staff reported that the procurement process for a new vessel has shifted because Ferry management is also considering purchasing one or two used vessels from the State of Washington. This change occurred because the current owners decided they now want to sell the boats, and District has determined that the cost to purchase a new vessel is higher than anticipated. The two used vessels are similar to the *M.V. Del Norte* – slightly longer but with a smaller capacity of 350 passengers. Golden Gate Ferry believes it could refurbish the used vessels to increase their capacity. FPAC members asked what drydocking facility could work on the vessels and whether WETA or another local operator would be interested in buying them. Bay Ship and Yacht in Alameda is one candidate for the drydocking work and another outfit in San Francisco is a possibility. Staff also mentioned that its project to reconstruct passenger loading facilities is in the planning and design phase. In the long-term, Golden Gate Ferry wants to shift its service to main-deck passenger loading.

Ferry Passenger Code of Conduct. Staff related that it has developed a code of passenger conduct to be posted on vessels and in terminals, and it is being reviewed by attorneys. Members recommended that it be kept brief.

3. Member/Visitor Comments

- Mr. Mullin suggested that a decrease in local taxation could negatively affect Golden Gate Ferry landing facilities. He also inquired about the accounting methodology used for Golden Gate Ferry.
- Denise Turner passed along a complaint from a ferry passenger that had worked its way through city of San Francisco offices. Ms. Wessling took responsibility for responding to the complainant.

4. Committee Business

Staff reiterated that it is looking for new members.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, November 5, 2008**, at noon in the usual location (Pier One in San Francisco). All members present expect to attend.