

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Meeting of Monday, February 13, 2023



FPAC Members Present: Chuck Hornbrook, Jordan Jaffe, Maryline Lewett, Erik Selvig, Michael Stryker

Guests Present: Katherine Tsou, Hansen Bridgett; Dan Bell, BPAC; Jim Mastin, GGBHTD Board of Directors

Staff Present: Chris Bearden, Director of Ferry Operations; David Davenport, Principal Planner; Michael Hoffman, Director of Engineering and Maintenance; Collette Martinez, Manager of Ferry Operations; Carlena Natouf, Customer Relations Supervisor; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2023. Minutes were reviewed with no edits, however there was no quorum to approve them.

2. Special Presentation

Bylaws and Brown Act Discussion (Katherine Tsou). Katherine Tsou discussed the Brown Act definition of public meetings. Because FPAC was created by the District Board of Directors, it is considered a legislative body and subject to the Brown Act, which requires discussions among members to take place at the predetermined meeting time and location, with no side discussions by a minority of group members prior to the meeting or after the meeting. The proposed Bylaws are in line with the District's other PAC groups. FPAC members may submit comments on the proposed Bylaws prior to the April meeting, when they will be voted on for approval.

3. Operational Issues

A. Ridership Updates. Josh Widmann reported weekday ridership for all routes was close to 3,000 – 3,500 unlinked daily passenger trips in January. Larkspur average weekday ridership was around 2,000 – 2,250 unlinked passenger trips. Sausalito service has been carrying around 500 to 750 unlinked passenger trips on average days. Tiburon has been averaging up to 400 unlinked passenger trips depending on weather. Unlinked daily passenger trips for Angel Island also depends on weather, averaging around 200 on weekdays and 300 on sunny weekends and on group travel days.

B. Service Updates. Collette Martinez stated the next Larkspur schedule changes will include a 25-minute transfer window with SMART. The Ferry Division plans to have the San Francisco inner berth operational soon, which will take the pressure off Gate B. One upcoming change related to the baseball schedules will be that the southbound game day departures will depart an extra 15 minutes early.

4. Updates and Other Items

A. Vessel Updates. Collette Martinez reported the M.S. *Sonoma* should return within the week and that this summer will be the first in many summers to have all three Spaulding vessels in use, as

well as all four catamaran boats. At the next meeting the group will have an update on the engine configuration for the new build vessel.

- B. Terminal Updates. Collette Martinez noted that the Larkspur terminal repairs had been completed and the San Francisco terminal repairs to the ramp structure are complete. However, the San Francisco ramp hydraulics are still being worked on at this time.
- C. Return to Office Timeline Discussion. Chuck Hornbrook reported some of his recent findings from outreach and confirmed that the busy Tiburon commute days are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. He also commented that the 5:45 p.m. Tiburon ferry departs too late, since most nannies end their shift at 5:00 p.m. Jamie Taylor confirmed the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday pattern, however added that some commuters desire an earlier 3:00 p.m. northbound departure out of San Francisco. Maryline Lewett confirmed this desire for earlier departures.
- D. Proposed Five-Year Fare Program. David Davenport, Principal Planner, provided an update on the Proposed Five-Year Fare Program, which would begin July 1, 2023 if approved. To solicit public input, there will be two online public meetings and a public hearing, as well as an email inbox where comments may be provided. There are four scenarios for consideration, including an annual increase of \$0.25 across the board for all fares, a \$0.25 increase across the board for just regional fares, a three percent increase, and a four percent increase. The fare proposal also addresses the \$1.50 state park Angel Island entrance fee pass-through.

5. Committee Business

A. FPAC Initiatives.

i. Larkspur 42 Crossings/Parking Needs Environmental Review. This itemed was tabled due to time constraints.

ii. Sonoma-Marin Bike Share. This itemed was tabled due to time constraints.

iii. Future Vessels Discussion. Vessel size was discussed, however Collette Martinez reminded the committee that the vessel replacement project will be a catamaran size (450 capacity or more) vessel. Once the Angel Island float is reconfigured, it could potentially accommodate a smaller vessel.

- B. Membership Recruitment & New Member Vote. Josh Widmann provided a quick update indicating that the outreach efforts had resulted in ten emails sent out from a previous waitlist to prospective members. At the time, one prospective member responded, however no completed applications were received. An additional marketing effort will be underway to recruit up to three additional members. These prospective members will be invited to the April FPAC meeting.

6. Member/Visitor Comments

No comments from members or visitors.

- 7. **Next Meeting: April 10, 2023.** The committee agreed to reconvene on April 10, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. This time was later changed to 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Port of San Francisco.