

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:30 hours – 27 November 2012

Present: John Espley (Chair), Darlene Hollstein, Rose Arsenault, Kathleen Burton, Kimberley Hughes, Frank Bourrée, Al Hasham, Dan Dagg, Lori Munoz, Richard Van Leeuwen, Bruce Carter (CEO), Oriane Fort (staff), Capt(N) Bob Auchterlonie, David Rand, Sang Ly, David Marshall

Regrets: Mike Black, John Wilson, Tom Roemer

1) Motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended.

- **Add Sewage Treatment update and Board Confidentiality discussion.**
- **The Updated Spokesperson policy is ongoing and will be tabled until the next meeting.**

Moved by David Rand

Seconded by Rose Arsenault

Carried

2) Motion to approve consent agenda, including amended minutes of October 23, 2012 Board of Directors meeting and October financial statements.

- **Change item six to “Motion to destroy ballots” and item seven under *Governance* to “Motion to nominate Lindalee Brougham for third and final term on Airport Authority Board.”**

Moved by David Rand

Seconded by Kimberley Hughes

Carried

3) Chair’s Remarks

The Chair congratulated the staff on the success of the 30th Annual Dinner Auction.

4) Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee

- i) CEO Compensation

(Staff was not present to allow for candid discussion)

b) GVDA

- i) China trip results

Staff reported on the success of the Delegation to China. The delegation focused primarily on bolstering tourism, education, business investment and immigration. The trip generated an estimated \$9.5 million in initial value and the estimated value of current projects over the next five years is \$12.5 million. These numbers are likely to increase with the submission of other reports.

- ii) Funding update

Formal approval from Western Diversification is still a month away, however they have already responded favourably to the Foreign Direct Investment proposal.

c) Policy

Discussion centred on the creation of a visa processing policy for the coming year. Slow visa approval negatively impacts tourism, economic development and education, particularly for Chinese visitors as highlighted in the GVDA presentation.

d) Prodigy

The Prodigy Group and the City of Victoria are partnering for an evening Amazing Race; the city has offered support in promotions and \$1500 in sponsorship. The Prodigy Chair also thanked Al Hasham for his direction and guidance throughout the years.

e) Finance and Audit

The October financials were as expected and the year should close with a small deficit as had been expected from earlier projections. The auction met its projected targets and will improve the year-end financial statements once all payments are processed.

f) Governance

i) Harbour Authority Nomination

Three nominations have been received, the Governance Committee will vet all nominees based on the GVHA's criteria, and will make a recommendation to the Board. The Board will vote by e-mail due to a committee member's absence.

5) CEO Report

a) National Marine Conservation Area

This is the first attempt to create a conservation area so near to urban space. The Chamber should host a public information session, potentially with the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

b) Marine Traffic

Although the conservation area would not directly affect BC Ferries ports, it could impact sailing routes. There is the potential for similar impact to BC Hydro and Fortis as they have underwater cables and pipelines in the area. All marine traffic could be facing fees.

6) Harbour Authority Presentation 8:30

The GVHA highlighted its goal of becoming Victoria's harbour master, and the projected potential for growth in cruise ship visitors if two more berths are built.

7) Sewage Treatment update

The Chamber and the Tourism Board of Victoria created a joint media release restating their positions on sewage treatment. The Chamber created a policy in 2010, which accepts the existing scientific research and regulation, and recommends moving forward with treatment. In light of more recent issues raised by the CRD Waste Water Management Committee, the Board is considering updating the Sewage Treatment policy in the New Year.

8) Board Confidentiality update

Discussion centred on the need to maintain Board confidentiality, and a reminder that the CEO and Chair are the official Chamber spokespeople. There are existing confidentiality policies in place, and like all other governance policies, they must be respected.

Motion to Adjourn by David Rand

Next Meeting: Christmas Lunch December 10, 2012 at the Victoria Golf Club

Secretary

Chair

Date