

Present: Darlene Hollstein (Chair), Frank Bourrée, John Wilson, Rose Arsenault, Kathleen Burton, Al Hasham, Dan Dagg, Lori Muñoz, David Rand, Sang Ly, John Espley, Ryan Burles, Mark Smith, Bruce Carter (CEO)

Regrets: Tom Roemer, Capt (N) Bob Auchterlonie, Stephanie Solyon, Richard Van Leeuwen

1) Motion to approve the meeting agenda including the addition of:
Prodigy Group Amazing Chase
Resignation of Stephanie Solyon,
Moved by David Rand
Seconded by Dan Dagg
Carried

2) Motion to approve minutes of February, 2013 Board of Directors.
Moved by Al Hasham
Seconded by John Espley
Carried

3) Chair's Remarks

The Chair remarked on the success of the joint mixer with Tourism Victoria and the importance of ongoing economic development meetings with the city.

4) Business arising from last meeting

a) Community Involvement Task Force Terms of Reference
b)

Motion: The approval of the terms of reference.

Discussion: The task force was interested in organizing a series of events to involve members including a food drive.

Moved by Kathleen Burton
Seconded by John Espley
Carried

c) Policies for Deletion

i) Taxation Incentives to Discourage Vacant and Derelict Buildings

Motion: Delete subject Policy

Moved by: David Rand

Seconded by: Frank Bourree

Discussion: The discussion acknowledged the importance of facilitating the redevelopment of property as appropriate. The policy is broad in its scope and can be considered a disincentive based on the construct.

Carried

d) Consistency in Sentencing for Drug Trafficking

Motion: Delete subject Policy

Moved by: David Rand

Seconded by: Frank Bourree

Carried

e) Easing Labour Market Pressure Through Child Care Flexibility

Motion: Delete subject Policy referring the important business issue of childcare to the policy committee

Moved by: John Wilson

Seconded by: Frank Bourree

Discussion: The subject policy was very specific in its focus and the achievement of that policy is a significant win for the Chamber. The issue of Child Care remains an important interest to the Chamber as it directly affects labour costs and availability. The Policy Committee should consider a more robust childcare policy.

Carried

5) Harbour Authority Governance

The Chamber is one of the members of the Harbour Authority and as such a call from the City of Victoria calling for a special meeting to consider a bylaw change is expected. The Chamber has a variety of courses of action available and the appropriate course is not yet clear. As David Marshall was recently appointed to that board he should be consulted prior to the board considering options.

Action: Chair will liaise with David Marshall and solicit his opinion.

6) Provincial Election

The Chamber remains focused on the policies that affect our members and is committed to highlighting those issues. The lack of a government (liberal) candidate in the Victoria riding and others leads to question the value of conducting candidate forums or meetings. The Chamber should look to alternate methods to highlight issues of concern to the membership.

Action: CEO to take actions to engage candidates prior to the election.

7) Natural Gas Common Rate Proposal

The BC Utilities Commission in its recent decision not to support Postage Stamp rates for Natural Gas has strayed from an important principle in the Utilities sphere. Staff have drafted a policy for consideration by the BC Chamber and foundation briefing documents and will solicit the support of partners in the lobbying effort.

8) Pooled Registered Pension Plans

The BC Legislation has been introduced and more information will be available overtime. The Chamber will monitor this program.

9) Appointment of Mark Smith to Prodigy Group

Given that Stephanie Solyon is stepping away from the Chamber a second board liaison is required.

Motion: Nominate Mark Smith to board liaison for the Prodigy Group

Moved by: Lori Munoz
Seconded by: Rose Arsenault
Call for further nominations was made three times – non received
Carried by acclamation

10) Amazing Chase

Prodigy Group will be conducting the Amazing Chase on June 7th. The event after party is planned for Darcy's pub and will follow the guidelines established by the Chamber Board (January 2013 Minutes). There is a potential conflict with the daylong UrbaCity Challenge June 9th and Prodigy Group is investigating any event overlap.

11) Resignation Stephanie Solyon

Stephanie has indicated she is stepping away from the chamber it is unclear whether this is a resignation.

Action: Chair to contact Stephanie and the board reconsider at the next meeting.

12) New Business

a) Financial Statements

The February month end financial statements were presented to the board and the revenue risks associated with membership revenue and insurance marketing fees were noted. There is opportunity to recover revenue in events and programs but it will not likely cover the membership revenue risk. There are some challenges in recognizing the membership revenue and the auditors continue to work with staff to resolve that issue.

Action: This issue is key and both the finance and audit committee and executive should monitor this closely and look to the CEO for options to mitigate the risk.

13) In Camera Session

John Juricic departed for in camera session

Motion to Adjourn by John Wilson

Next Meeting: April 23, 2013 at the Chamber offices

Secretary

Chair

Date