

**GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Board Meeting**  
**07:30 hours – 28 April 2009**  
**Wardroom CFB Esquimalt**

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**Present:** John Juricic (Chair), Margaret Lucas, David Rand, Roger Skillings, Richard Gordon, David Vinnels, Rose Arsenaault, Ray Kolla, Captain Marcel Halle, Pauline Rafferty, John Espley, David Nicholson, Dave Marshall, George Fuller, Bruce Carter (CEO), Shannon Renault (staff)

**Absent:** Mike Black, Gerry Brimacombe, Annie Wong Harrison

**Guest:** Todd Webber (auditor)

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The meeting was called to order at 7:35 A.M.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the meeting agenda

**Moved by** David Rand

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

**2. Approval of March 09 Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of March 2009 board meetings

**Moved by** George Fuller

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

**3. Chair's Remarks**

- The Chair revisited a question that was posed at our November Board Planning Session, which was when the board discusses the vision and mission statement for the chamber and if there was opportunity to restate those items.
- It was indicated that it would be good to start thinking about these two items now in preparation for the mid-year board meeting in June. The Chair felt it may be time to re-visit the chamber's role in the community

**4. Finance and Audit Committee**

- The committee chair stated that the committee has been reviewing where the chamber is in regards to membership and sponsorships. They have also been considering the possibility of putting financial policies in place. Committee will be meeting with staff to suggest new processes
- Ray reported on the finance report from the auditor and stated that the financial position causes no worry; however, the committee will continue to monitor membership revenue.
- The deficit in the chamber's financial statements is due to investment loss and capitalization write-offs. It was noted that the depiction of deficit is associated with the move to show actual value of investment rather than cost.

Motion to accept the audited financial statements for the year ending Dec.31, 2008.

**Moved by** Ray Kolla

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

Motion to approve the March 2009 financial statements as presented.

**Moved by** Pauline Rafferty

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

## 5. Address from the Canadian Naval Centennial

### a. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Currently, there are 30 approved activities for the 100th anniversary celebrations with a budget of \$4.1 M
- Economic impact of events not calculated but will be in the millions given navy and tourism spending
- There was a suggestion made that a potential economic impact study of the event be done in conjunction with GVDA
- A challenge has been issued to municipalities regarding coming up with entertainment opportunities for the more than 15,000 foreign visitors to our region

### b. Current Issues – Base Commander Halle

- The Base Commander described the structure of MARPAC, JTF Pacific and CFB Esquimalt.
- CFB consists of over 15,000 acres of property and brings over \$500,000 in economic impact to the Greater Victoria region. That impact will grow as the fleet is renewed.

## 6. Policy Approvals

- The Manager of Policy Development and Communications presented the process for policy development and approval
- Five policies were presented for board approval.
  - 1) Island Transportation Strategy: this policy calls for the provincial government to conduct a thorough gap and opportunity analysis of transportation infrastructure on Vancouver.

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

**Moved by** David Rand

**Seconded by** John Espley

**Carried**

- 2) Increased Sentences for Prolific Offenders: this policy calls for a change in the criminal code to encourage giving repeat/prolific offenders to escalating sentences for criminal convictions.

Discussion on this proposal centered on the research segments cited and whether the courts did not already give increasing sentences to prolific offenders.

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

**Moved by** Ray Kolla

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

- 3) Municipal Amalgamation for Urban Municipalities: this policy calls for an amendment to the Community Charter to allow the provincial government the ability to call for municipal amalgamations if they believe it in the best interest of a region. Currently amalgamation has to be initiated through a supporting plebiscite called by municipal governments or the province may require municipalities to call for the plebiscite question. However, the province currently cannot order amalgamation.

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

**Moved by** David Rand

**Seconded by** Marcel Halle

**Carried**

4) Increasing Rental Housing Through Fair Tax Treatment: this policy calls for adjustments to the Canada Tax Act that would make investment in rental residential development and business management a more attractive building and business opportunity. Currently tax policies disadvantage investment in rental property development and management as compared to other business types.

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

**Moved by** David Rand

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

5) Access to Capital for Small Business: this policy calls for the provincial government to introduce a short term program to improve access to capital for small business.

- A discussion followed on the issue of whether asking the government to be involved in the free market system as concerns credit. It was also raised by one director that the problem of access to credit is relatively small, while others said it was more widespread than one might think.
- The point was made that approving this policy would make sure it got to the floor for a fuller discussion at the BC Chamber of Commerce.

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

**Moved by** David Rand

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

## 7. **Committee and Task Force Reports**

In the interest of time, the Chair encouraged board members to only speak if they had points to add to the report in the interest of time.

Margaret Lucas encouraged board members to take out a membership for themselves or their business in the Coalition to End Homelessness and attend the AGM in June. The CEO indicated he would forward the information to board members.

Other reports attached to minutes.

### 3) **Staff Report**

#### a) Business Awards

The business awards went very well.

#### b) Candidate Forums

The forums appeared to go well with members saying they were pleased to be able to talk to their candidates directly.

c) Tour Bus Parking

Staff will be meeting with city staff to discuss the existing bylaws that governs tour bus parking downtown.

d) Spirit Committee

CEO continues to participate on Spirit Committee. The Spirit Committee has formed a society and is in the process of acquiring directors and officers' liability insurance.

Motion to Adjourn

**Moved by** David Rand

**Seconded by** David Nicholson

**Carried**

Next Board meeting is May 26, 2009 at 7:30 AM at the Chamber office.

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**Secretary**

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**Chair**

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**Date**