

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:00 hours – 24 August 2010

Present: David Marshall, John Juricic, Rose Arsenault, Captain Craig Baines, Rob Bennett, Gerry Brimacombe, Mel Couvelier, John Espley, George Fuller, Al Hasham, Ray Kolla, Regan McGrath, Roger Skillings, David Vinnels, Annie Wong Harrison
Bruce Carter (CEO), Shannon Renault (staff)

Regrets: Mike Black, Pauline Rafferty, David Vinnels

1. Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by Craig Baines

Carried

2. Motion to approve minutes of the July 27th Board of Directors meeting with minor edits.

Moved by Gerry Brimacombe

Seconded by George Fuller

Carried

3. Chair's Remarks

- Chair welcomed Captain Craig Bains, the new base commander and appointee to the chamber's board of directors.
- Chair commented on the work of the Johnson Street Bridge forum and the position that the chamber took on the bridge following that forum.
- Work continues to complete a 360 review of the CEO
- Chair attended the roundtable with Minister Rob Merrifield, minister of state for transport. Will also attend the roundtable with Minister Rob Moore, minister of state for small business and tourism.
- The Chair requested that board members review the first draft of the strategic plan (in the package of today's meeting) in preparation for the board planning retreat in the fall

4. Staff Report

- The CEO reported concerns of members that have been expressed regarding downtown, and more particularly the issues on Pandora Street. Some members are pleased with the work the chamber has been doing, while others are quite vociferous that they want the chamber to be far more assertive regarding the problems on Pandora.
- There are also members who are expressing business concerns related to HST and the business adjustment associated with the new tax system.
- A discussion followed on how the chamber is positioned on various high profile issues.

5. Recruitment Committee

- Members of the committee have identified three potential candidates to run for the board of directors
- Six people attended the election information session held at the chamber
- This bodes well for a healthy election in the fall

6. Committee / Task Force Reports

a. Finance and Audit

- The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee summarized the state of revenue and expenses. Revenue decreases are due in large part to the vacant office space and decreased membership dues. An increase in revenue is projected in communication and partnership revenue. The board also approved a \$20K expenditure for the consumption study
- Chair of committee noted that he was not concerned about the financial position at this point in time.
- The committee reviewed and evaluated the proposals that were sent in response to the RFP for audit services.

Motion to approve that the recommendation of Grant Thornton LLP be awarded the audit contract for the GVCC for the next five year period be forwarded to the membership for approval.

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by Annie Wong Harrison

Carried

b. GVDA

- Rob Bennett and CEO are on the city committee helping to create a strategy for the City of Victoria regarding economic development

c. Branding Task Force

- Tabled

d. Policy and Public Affairs

Motion to endorse principles contained in the urban chamber working group policy on municipal financing.

Moved by Rob Bennett

Seconded by Ray Kolla

Carried

e. Prodigy Group

- Chair of committee reviewed status report and drew attention to the mentorship program
- Noted that, next year, the committee will need someone to take the lead on the mentorship program as current lead is taking on the role of chair of Prodigy Group. An investment in software to do this may be one option but more work needs to be done to establish a business case for that investment.
- A request was put to the board of directors to provide feedback on the SMS text pilot from RumTels

Lachlan McLean from WAM Development was invited to make a presentation to the board.

- (Marine Concepts is a subsidiary of WAM Developments)
- McLean called on the Chamber to take action against attack of business by the City of Victoria
- McLean outlined the work and investment that his company has made over the last five years in trying to move forward with the plans for the marina
- The proposed rezoning would cut 40% of the space from marina
- McLean noted that businesses that play by the rules should not be penalized by shifting goal posts at the end
- McLean responded to questions of the board
- McLean was thanked for his presentation

- CEO has spoken to lawyer regarding actions of the City on this issue. It appears City has acted within all its rights, only legal concerns are likely to be if the rezoning is to parkland.
- f. Governance
 - Directors assessments have been completed

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 AM
Moved by Rob Bennett

Next board meeting will be September 28th at 7:30 AM at the chamber office.

Secretary

Chair

Date