

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:30 hours – 23 August 2011

Present: David Marshall (Chair), Rose Arsenault, George Fuller, Al Hasham, Darlene Hollstein, John Wilson, Bea Bate, Pauline Rafferty, Rob Bennett, Gerry Brimacombe, John Espley, Ray Kolla
Bruce Carter (CEO), Sasha Angus (staff), Ellen Henry (staff)

Regrets: Kimberley Hughes, Dan Dagg, Capt(N) Craig Baines, Janell Karst, Mike Black

Leave: Regan McGrath

1) Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Rob Bennett
Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe
Carried

2) Motion to approve consent agenda, including minutes of July 26, 2011 Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Ray Kolla
Seconded by Rob Bennett
Carried

3) Chair's Remarks

- The Chair highlighted the forthcoming HST referendum results and commented on the impact and outcomes that will be faced should the HST be repealed.
- The Chair reported on recent meetings with Mayor Frank Leonard and discussions on the LRT project including the issue of a referendum concerning the regional portion of the capital costs. In addition, the Chair commented on the proposed municipal auditor general and Mayor Leonard's support for the initiative.
- The Chair outlined other recent meetings with elected officials including MP Denise Savoie. The issue of LRT was also raised at the meeting and discussion centred on the capital and operating projections and their tax implications on the region.

4) Branding Implementation

a) Membership Committee

Discussion centered on the principles of being a progressive, dynamic and inclusive organization. The interpretation and scope of inclusiveness were discussed in the context of the branding taskforce input sessions. Further to the discussion, it was recommended that the item be referred to the membership committee for further work.

b) Business Plan Basics

The CEO outlined the business plan activities and changes for consideration by the board. Discussion centered on some potential areas of attention as the programs and activities are implemented over the coming months.

Motion to approve the Business Plan in principle

Moved by Rob Bennett
Seconded by Rose Arsenault
Carried

5) Strategic Plan Update

An update was provided to the board regarding the next steps involved with the strategic plan and the outcomes from the branding taskforce. A meeting has been scheduled to work on aligning the two documents.

6) Rapid Transit

Discussion centered on recent conversations with the CEO of BC Transit concerning the Chamber's call for a third party review and referendum on the local borrowing portion. Discussion centered on the need for a regional transportation authority, the process for elector assent/approval as well as the level of potential increase for gas taxes to fund the project.

7) Municipal Auditor General (MAG)

Discussion centered on the provincial government's intention to move forward with an Office of the Municipal Auditor General. The BC provincial policy originated from the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and it is anticipated that it will be introduced as legislation in the fall session of the legislature.

8) 2012 Board of Directors

The incoming Chair outlined themes for discussion at the November board planning retreat including member engagement, communications and community profile. In addition, he outlined the current members who will be stepping down from the board efforts in regards to the recruitment of people to run for the board of the Chamber.

9) Policy and Public Affairs Committee

Motion to delete the following policies:

- Cooperative education tax credit (2005)
- Energy Security for Vancouver Island (2007)
- Increase rental inventory through Fair tax treatment (2009)
- Taxation measure for derelict or vacant buildings (2008)
- Tax ratios (2006)

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by John Espley

Carried

10) Finance and Audit Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee outlined the financial statements for the previous quarter and reviewed the year-end financial projections. Discussion centered on the use of reserve funds for the 125 Anniversary activities.

Motion to accept the financial statements as presented

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by Al Hasham

Carried

11) Presentation by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA)

The board received a presentation from the CEO, Chair and staff of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority outlining many of their new initiatives and the planning work that is being done on GVHA properties. The CEO highlighted the various business lines of the GVHA and their contribution to the operations of the Authority. The board thanked the GVHA for their presentation.

Motion to Adjourn by Rob Bennett

Next Meeting September 27th at 7:30 AM at the Chamber offices.

Secretary

Chair

Date