

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

Present: John Espley (Chair), Rose Arsenault, Kathleen Burton, Frank Bourree, David Marshall, Darlene Hollstein, Al Hasham, Dan Dagg, Sang Ly, David Rand, John Wilson, Capt(N) Craig Barnes, Mike Black, Lori Munoz, Richard Van Leeuwen, Tom Roemer, Bruce Carter (CEO), Ellen Henry (staff)

Regrets: Kimberley Hughes, Sasha Angus (staff)

Tom Roemer was welcomed to the board and provided a brief overview of his background.

1) Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by David Rand
Seconded by Rose Arsenault
Carried

2) Motion to approve consent agenda, including minutes of October 25, 2011 Board of Directors meeting.

A revision was requested to correct the Vice Chair's title (remove Executive).

Moved by Rose Arsenault
Seconded by Mike Black
Carried

3) Action Items from Previous Minutes

- There were no action items from the previous board minutes.

4) Prodigy Group Appointment

Motion to appoint Richard Van Leeuwen to the Chamber Board

Moved by David Marshall
Seconded by Al Hasham
Carried

5) Committee Business

a) Finance and Audit

The committee chair presented the year end statements which had been prepared by Grant Thornton and described the audit and review process.

Motion to approve the 2011 audited financial reports as presented

Moved by Frank Bourree
Seconded by Mike Black
Carried

Discussion followed on the Chamber's budget and finances, which were reported as being on track with the projections previously reported to the board. The committee had also reviewed the current investment mix and agreed that it was appropriate.

Motion to accept Finance Committee's recommendation to continue with current investment mix

Moved by Frank Bourree
Seconded by Sang Ly
Carried

b) Policy and Government Affairs

No comments

c) Strategic Communications

The committee Chair reported that the committee had met and developed a work plan. An ad hoc survey confirmed the businesses join the Chamber for networking and advocacy reasons.

d) Governance

The committee did not meet this month. The CRD sewage treatment committee was discussed, with agreement that the Chamber would not take a committee position in order to allow us to remain an independent third party.

e) Prodigy Group

The committee chair reported that the Amazing Race is on track for sponsors but is still seeking teams. The mentorship program is close to its target.

f) Economic Development

Discussion centred on building an infrastructure priority list to help the region get the most impact beyond the construction. This type of list has worked well in the past, has solid credibility and is used as a filter to identify regional focus.

It was reported that the City of Victoria is putting together a cabinet to provide advice on economic development to Council. The Vice Chair has been asked to serve on the cabinet.

6) Items of Note

- a) The City of Victoria is holding a property tax review this evening examining the balance between residential and business taxes while managing competitive pressures. The City is also considering naming rights, a change from their historical position. We are in favour of the concept and encourage all municipalities to develop a policy on how they would evaluate proposals. This could be a position which the policy committee would develop to take to the BC Chamber.
- b) During the recent discussions about the Johnson Street Bridge, we took an active role behind the scenes with our support appreciated by Council. We continue to argue that the bridge is an essential transportation link and we can't risk the economic development that would be challenged by any delay.
- c) Discussion was held around the work to be done by BC Ferries to address current and future challenges. Options under consideration could impact economic development and the Chamber will work with the organization to

develop an advisory group addressing the region's concerns. It was agreed that we would look at the recommendations in the Ferry Commission report and see what we can support.

- d) The Chamber supported the recent BC Transit budget announcement with a media release.
- e) Discussion about the Victoria Airport Authority centred on the need to align priorities and ensure we continue to work together.
- f) The Minister Moore, the senior federal minister in BC, has met with the Chamber and expressed interest in workforce housing as well as the airport runway extension. We are working to put together a session where he can address the membership.
- g) The KPMG Competitive Alternatives study indicated that the Victoria region continues to be a great place to do business.
- h) Flowercount garnered solid media attention but is not without its challenges. We will meet with partners to discuss a way forward.

7) Staff Report

Bruce Carter provided a staff update noting that Linda Kitchen's earliest possible return to work date will be April 23. Meanwhile Ellen's salary has been reassigned to allow for allocation of cost for the Communications Contractor.

8) New Business

A discussion was held regarding an apparently flawed process which exists for the issuing of permits through the City of Victoria and the fact that they have undertaken a customer service initiative. We continue to approach our relationship with the City in a strategic manner while supporting our members

Motion to Adjourn by David Rand

Next Meeting: April 24th at 7:30 AM at the Chamber offices.

Secretary

Chair

Date