



GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2017
The Chamber | 7:30 – 9:30 am

Attending: Al Hasham, Dan Dagg, Frank Bourree, Captain (Navy) Jason Boyd, Carmen Charette, Catherine Holt, Patricia Jelinski, Lise Gyorkos, Shaun Cerisano, Gary Kinar, Mark Mawhinney, Natasha Reger, Mark Smith, John Wilson, Kris Wirk, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

Regrets: Natasha Reger.

1. Agenda/Minutes

Motion to approve agenda

Moved by Carmen Charette

Seconded by Patricia Jelinski

Carried

New business: update on bc211

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting

Moved by Mark Smith

Seconded by Mark Mawhinney

Carried

2. Financial Report

Financials are looking positive and projected to remain solid for the remainder of the year.

Motion to approve financials presented to the Board

Moved by Kris Wirk

Seconded by John Wilson

Carried

The Chamber will be implementing additional server security over the next few months, rather than increasing insurance. Current D&O Insurance Policy distributed for information.

3. Chair's Update

Lots of events in the upcoming months. The food and beverage events scheduled from June to September were a successful strategy of engagement with the community overall. On an advocacy front The Chamber held the plastic bag roundtable with the Retail Council and tonight's climate change roundtable with Sierra Club both working closely with stakeholders on issues that matter to the membership. We anticipate an increase in co-hosted events with BC Chamber in order to better align with the schedule/travel needs of MLAs, it is a great opportunity for both advocacy and brand awareness. The first 5 chamber event was well received with many requests to make this an annual event each September.

Board Election is doing well and closes Oct. 5th at noon. We have 4 spots for 8 nominees. Chamber Member of the Year nomination form was sent out, this will be voted on at the November Planning Session/Board Meeting. The Chamber's re-Accreditation with Distinction submission has been sent in on schedule. Federal tax changes that are proposed will have a major impact on most small businesses. The Chamber has been engaging our membership to get involved, send emails, letters and sign the petitions we've been circulating. A motion will be made from the floor at UBCM, written by The Chamber and presented by Mayor Helps. An OpEd will be sent to the TC this week on behalf of our stakeholder group.

4. Governance Committee Items

Motion to approve 2017 Nomination Committee: current Chair, Vice-Chair and Past Chair.

Moved Dan Dagg

Seconded Carmen Charette

Carried

5. Report on Policy & Government Affairs

Recent Regional Governance study done by the Provincial government was fascinating. Unfortunately we have been unable to find someone willing to publicly speak to the study. The Chamber has written an OpEd on the issue that was well-received. There will be a follow-up in the Business Examiner with a focus on transportation. Recent guests to the Policy Committee include Bruce Hallsor on electoral reform as well as the complexity of running a minority government and Del Manak from VicPD taking us through a day in the life of an average beat officer.

Action: Request to have an executive summary on Electoral Reform that can be circulated to the Board.

6. Prodigy Group

Review of updated Prodigy Logo and new ad campaigns. Accolades from the current board on the work the Prodigy Group does. This marketing shift will also include integrating Prodigy into the navigation of the core Chamber site.

Motion to approve new logo and retention of name to leverage 10 years of branding.

Moved Shaun Cerisano

Seconded Gary Kinar

Carried

7. Ambassadors

Ambassadors will be further integrated into the Prodigy mentorship program and into an updated format for a new member information sessions

8. New Business

Bc211 was just launched locally by United Way. It began in the US and United Way received the licensing for this number from CRTC in 2000. The service offers free confidential service in 165 different languages and dialects and runs 24/7, 365 days a year. System users have access to 13,000 services in the service directory. Operators are highly trained individuals including those with masters in social work. The most recent roll-out provides full services here on the island including text, web and call services.

Because there is a national license there is a flexibility to shift the primary response station to an unaffected call centre in times of localized disasters. This ability to respond during emergencies is key as heaviest use tends to be in times of trouble (floods, fires, ice storms). But the service is not just for emergencies or the disadvantaged, it can be used by small business with an affected staff looking for support through a challenging time. Cards are being circulated to the local police in order to provide victim support. Currently funded by private sponsors, the goal is to be funded by the government much like the funding model for other jurisdictions.

There was a quick review of new scheduling of every other month for board meetings and reduced schedules (as needed) for other committees. Overall there was a positive response from the board on the new schedules.

9. Next Meeting - Friday, November 17, 2017.

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Patricia Jelinski

Seconded by Dan Dagg

Carried

Secretary

Chair

Date