

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:30 hours – 26 May 2009

Present: John Juricic (Chair), Margaret Lucas, David Rand, Richard Gordon, David Vinnels, Rose Arsenault, Ray Kolla, Captain Marcel Halle, Roger Skillings, Pauline Rafferty, John Espley, David Nicholson, Dave Marshall, George Fuller, Mike Black, Gerry Brimacombe, Annie Wong Harrison, Bruce Carter (CEO), Shannon Renault (staff)

Guest: Victoria Police Chief Jamie Graham

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 A.M. The Chair invited Police Chief Jamie Graham to address the chamber board before going into the formal part of the meeting.

- Chief referenced the Mayor's decision to form a late night task force and supported the move as a good idea and important to address the late night concerns of the city. The process will be that every Monday at 1 pm upon commencement, interested stakeholders will be asked to come before the task force to express concerns/ideas.
- The Chief anticipates that there will be more local discussions about supervised consumption sites, needle exchanges and harm reduction approaches.
- The police chief expressed his views on harm reduction and the importance on educating youth at risk.
- The Chief responded to a question about panhandling and what can be done about the proliferation of begging on city streets. The Chief noted that:
 - Canada has not made it illegal to panhandle
 - BC has the Safe Streets Act but there are considerable challenges with the judicial system to try and sentence anyone for panhandling
- In response to a question on disorderly behaviour in the downtown, the Chief addressed the issue of liquor fines and that he is working on increasing those fines and associated offences
- The Chief is in favour of regional police amalgamation

The Chair thanked Police Chief Jamie Graham for his time and presentation.

1. Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by David Marshall

Seconded by David Nicholson

Carried

2. Approval of March 09 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of April 2009 board meeting with minor amendments

Moved by David Rand

Seconded by Ray Kolla

Carried

3. Approval of April 2009 Financial Statements

Motion to approve the financial statements of April 2009

Moved by David Marshall

Seconded by Roger Skillings

Carried

4. Policy Approvals

- CEO outlined the Canadian Chamber policy process and then presented the fee-for-carriage policy. The policy, titled "Fee-for-Carriage for Local Broadcasters" addressed the issue that Canadian local broadcasters cannot charge fee for carriage, yet cable companies pay fee for carriage to international and US broadcasters. The policy called for the federal government to direct the CRTC to review and amend its regulatory environment and licensing regulations in order to preserve local television.
- The board was concerned that the policy as presented did not show the cable company's position on the issue, and indicated that the recommendation needed to stay somewhat neutral. They also asked for minor amendments on the recommendation and title.

Motion to approve the policy with amendments as specified.

Moved by David Marshall

Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe

Carried

- It was pointed out that the second policy to be taken to the Canadian Chamber had previously been approved by the board for the BC Chamber and therefore did not need a second approval. The policy is "Increasing Rental Inventory through Fair Tax Treatment"

5. Committee Reports

- In the interest of time, the Chair asked that unless there were particular issues to discuss on reports, to please just not that they are in the board package.

- a) Executive Committee
- b) Policy and Public Affairs – report attached to minutes
- c) Governance

There are four committees with openings to which the GVCC needs to appoint representatives

- i. Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society is open because Brian Barnett, the former representative, has moved out of the country.

Motion to appoint David Rand to the Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society.

Moved by Richard Gordon

Seconded by David Nicholson

Carried

- ii. Conference Centre Advisory Committee.

Motion to appoint Rose Arsenault to the Conference Centre Advisory Committee.

Moved by Richard Gordon

Seconded by John Espley

Carried

- iii. Spirit Committee.

Motion to appoint Roger Skillings to the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee.

Moved by Richard Gordon

Seconded by Roger Skillings

Carried

- iv. Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. This seat is available as Margaret Lucas, the current rep, will soon be off the board of directors as of December 31, 2009. At that time she will continue as a public member and the

chamber will have space to appoint a new representative. Two board members expressed interest in the committee when the new appointee is required; John Espley and Gerry Brimacombe.

Motion to appoint Margaret Lucas as GVCC rep to the Coalition to the first AGM of the Coalition.

Moved by Richard Gordon

Seconded by David Nicholson

Carried

- d) Economic Development – report attached to minutes
- e) Membership – report attached to minutes
- f) Prodigy – report attached to minutes

6. Mid Year Planning Session

- The Chair asked for suggestions/comments from directors as to what the topic or focus should be for the mid year planning session
- One suggestion was made to revisit the chamber's vision and mission; get ideas on the table to build for the fall retreat
- A second item brought forward was to re-look at where we are in terms of our year's goals and see if we need a mid-course correction
- The Governance Committee will have some suggestions regarding bylaw amendments to present
- A suggestion was made to discuss our go-forward strategy on advocacy with knowledge of the new provincial cabinet including a review of our approach and stance regarding tone, position and alignment
- It was suggested we could look at the data coming out of the membership committee

7. Support Requests

- CEO noted that in looking at requests for support from other organizations, the chamber should ask two questions. 1) can we support the request, 2) can we afford to do so
 - a) Spirit Committee - \$5,000
 - The Spirit Committee will be the vehicle for Victoria support of the Olympics.
 - A comment was made that a specific financial request may need to be reviewed by the finance committee if it were approved in principle by the board.
 - A question was asked as to whether there was an evaluation criteria for these types of requests to the chamber. There has not been a formal process to date, though all requests do come to the board.

Motion to grant Spirit Committee request for \$5,000 pending a positive review from the finance committee.

Moved by David Rand

Seconded by David Nicholson

Carried

- b) Navy Statue – sponsorship
 - A request was made for the Chamber to support the Navy's statue at the inner harbour through in kind sponsorship activities.
- c) Coalition to End Homelessness – advocacy
 - The chamber can support the Coalition through our ongoing advocacy efforts.

Both requests for in kind sponsorship support to the Navy and advocacy support to the Coalition were supported by the board.

8. Task Force Reports

- In the interest of time, the Chair re-iterated that verbal reports should be given only if there were new information not contained in the board package.
- Richard Gordon requested support for the Sewage Treatment Technical Committee meeting; there is an information session scheduled for 12-2 today
- The board discussed how we will move forward to support Richard Gordon and develop a position for the chamber on this issue
- It was suggested that input on this be provided by the Policy and Public Affairs Committee and Richard was asked to attend the committee's next meeting on June 9th. Other board members were also invited to attend if they wished to do so.

9. Staff Report

- Met with the City on tour bus parking. Will send information for input on the issue to affected/interested members. The city will collect input over the summer months with a goal of amending the city bylaw in the fall.
- The situation at Roger's Chocolates is not yet resolved, still in process
- Golf tournament is just about sold out
- The chamber website has been hacked twice last month. Working on fixing viruses.
- The Chamber has agreed to assist the Film Commission with their challenges if they are asked to do so in terms of providing service for a fee
- Economic Development going well. There may be new funding coming to the Agency in the near future.
- The board and committee volunteers have been invited to join staff for a volley ball tournament at the Sticky Wicket Rooftop on June 30th. Partners are welcome after 3 pm.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by David Rand

Seconded by George Fuller

Carried

Next board meeting is the mid year session on June 23rd at 7:00 – 11:00 AM at the Ramada Inn at 123 Gorge Road East.

Secretary

Chair

Date